

WEATHER

Jerusalem	12-18
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Ramat Gan	14-20
Haifa	12-18
Nahariya	10-16
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Last-ditch effort to prevent strike today

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman MK Amir Peretz and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat met late last night in a last-ditch effort to reach a compromise on the pension plan and prevent a strike today which would paralyze much of the economy.

The large unions called a 24-hour warning strike today, beginning at 6 a.m.

If it does take place, the strike will be one of the largest for several years, including workers at El Al, the Airports Authority, Bezeq, Israel Railways, high schools and the Amal network. Egged's hired drivers, Israel Aircraft Industries, TAAS-Israel Industries, the Oil Refineries, the petrochemical industries, the Nuclear Research Center, the Weizmann Institute, Nesher, the Dead Sea Works and others plan.

The negotiations between the union's representatives and the Treasury were stalemated on Friday, after the two sides failed to reach an agreement on the government's new pension plan. A separate meeting between Peretz and Shohat also reached a dead end.

The unions' action committee accused the Treasury of deliberate using stalling tactics in the talks. It announced that the strike would take place even if the Histadrut does not approve it, since the Finance Ministry has no intention of changing the pension plan, which would reduce the pension rights of some 600,000 workers.

IAI union chairman Haim Katz said "the government cannot rob the country's workers of their pensions. It is unthinkable that people should pay for their pension every single month, year after year, for 35 years, and then, when they retire, should be forced to live close to the poverty line."

Katz said the government's decision of March 28 concerning the pension plan damages the workers' pension rights and significantly reduces their pension allocations. "We demand that the veteran workers receive the pension rights they were promised as part of their work agreements and which they paid for all these years," he said.

The Histadrut asked the unions not to strike today, to enable the Treasury to come up with solutions to certain demands.

Peretz said the Histadrut's leadership was considering approving the unions' strike at its meeting today, but would prefer it to be done legally and in an orderly fashion, after the Histadrut gives the unions the green light to strike.

Shohat admitted that some of the issues raised by the unions were justified and should be re-examined, noting that the strike was not justified since the matter is still being negotiated.

Commenting on the unions' demands in general, he stressed that the government saved the pension funds by providing an "umbrella" which guarantees the workers' pensions, in exchange for certain alterations in the pension plan.



Hundreds of Palestinians demonstrate in Gaza City yesterday against the continued closure of the territories. (AP)

Army eases closure, Palestinians still banned from Israel

Arafat: Iran ordered latest wave of suicide bombings

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF has decided not to reimpose its internal blockade upon Arab villages in Judea and Samaria, and to allow increased shipments of food and supplies from Israel as a measure to ease the pressure on the Palestinians. Palestinians will still be barred from entering Israel, an official said.

The army lifted the internal closure early Friday, and was to have reimposed it that evening. But following consultations among senior security officers, it was decided that allowing travel between towns and villages would not endanger Israeli security so the closure was not reimposed.

The IDF, however, still maintained a closure on a five villages in Judea and Samaria, including Burka, Fawar, Kariyot, Dahariya and Rafat.

Over the weekend, OC Central Command Ian Biran discussed with Palestinian security officials and members of the Palestinian Authority new Israeli demands to crackdown on Hamas terrorism, the army said. These included fresh Israeli demands to capture the heads of terrorist groups, and serious actions against their organization and infrastructure.

The PA, represented by Minister of Local Government Affairs Saeb Erekat and Preventive Security Service head Jabril Rajoub, took upon itself to take the necessary measures, the army said.

The meeting followed two weeks of intensive IDF sweeps in Judea and Samaria, which netted over 300 suspected Hamas activists. An army raid Friday captured five people in villages around Jenin suspected of belonging to or aiding hostile groups.

During raids early Friday, the army arrested five men suspected of belonging to or aiding hostile groups. The army also carried out raids in the village of Sabastiya and Sawarwah, but no arrests were made, the army said.

Israeli officials, meanwhile, said they planned to reopen the Karni crossing at 6 a.m. today under tight security checks.

Because of the increased checks, the number of trucks allowed to be processed is expected to be much lower than the 400 which used the crossing daily before it was shut last Monday. The army will also let Gazan workers into the Erez industrial zone.

In the coming week, the IDF will allow the export of goods from the Gaza Strip through the Ashdod port after security checks and with escort.

"Steps to ease the closure will not be taken as long as the security situation is not clear, and so long as we're not certain the Palestinian Authority has arrested the top leaders of Hamas," Internal Security Minister Moshe Sharshal told Israel Radio.

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat accused Iran of being behind the latest suicide bombings. "I have the right to ask, 'Who ordered the latest violent attacks?' Iran, Iran, ordered them," he said at a demonstration against the closure.

In an address to 500 people belonging to the pro-PA Islamic movement Al-Masrah, Arafat said the recent terror attacks against Israel were instigated by "Iran and some Arab countries, and are designed to make the Palestinian people despair."

He said if the peace process goes as planned, the Palestinians will go from "controlling 31 percent of the land [areas A and B] in the first stage to a second and third stage in six months time and six months after that, when we will be controlling all the West Bank. We have to protect this Palestinian dream."

Arafat appeared to backtrack from recent statements he made suggesting that Israeli extremists may have joined forces with Islamic extremists.

Referring to the responsibility of "external forces" for the attacks, he added: "I do not mean the Israeli government or Israeli people."

Arafat was sharply criticized by Prime Minister Shimon Peres for his previous public insinuations.

However, he told Germany's

Der Spiegel magazine in an interview to be published tomorrow that he had proof that Israeli and Palestinian extremists were collaborating to torpedo the peace process with political violence.

"I can prove that Israeli and Palestinian conspirators are working together to wreck the peace process," he was quoted, according to Reuters.

Donor states will meet twice in Gaza this week to put together a \$40 million emergency employment-generating program so that Palestinians can weather what is expected to be a long closure, Terje Larsen, the UN envoy to the Palestinian Authority, said yesterday.

The joint liaison committee will meet on Tuesday, consisting of the US, Japan, Norway, the World Bank, Israel and the PA. On Thursday, representatives of 30 countries will meet.

"We will need to employ about 20,000 people at a minimum salary of \$12 a day [for about three months], about \$20 million, and another \$20 million for raw materials," Larsen said.

The issue of the closure will be addressed. "The situation is difficult right now, but not acute. However, in a very short time it will be very dramatic," Larsen said, estimating it at between two and three weeks.

Larsen met with Gaza trade (Continued on Page 2)

PM to Syria: Restrain Hizbullah

DAVID RUDGE

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres has asked the United States to relay a clear message to Syria to restrain Hizbullah following the recent wave of attacks by the organization, in which five IDF soldiers have been killed and 22 wounded.

Peres told reporters on Friday that in Israel's opinion Syria could have prevented some of the attacks and may be all of them.

"Our channel to Syria is via the US," Peres said. "We have stated things very clearly, and we have asked our friends the Americans to bring this to the attention of the Syrians."

He said Hizbullah had clearly made a supreme effort to disrupt the international anti-terror summit in Sharjah, and to try to belittle its importance.

"We will draw all the conclusions from this, although I obviously won't go into any details. It [Hizbullah] is an organization with political intentions, not only operational ones," said Peres. "We have decided that we won't dance according to their tune. We, ourselves, will decide the way to deal with this provocation on our part."

Peres spoke to reporters at a news conference with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

Christopher, for his part, called attention to Iran's role in supporting terror organizations, including Hizbullah, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

"The evidence is clear that Iran continues to fund, train and provide political support for Hizbullah, the Islamic Jihad and Hamas - all the sworn enemies of peace," he said.

Over the weekend, IDF and South Lebanese Army troops remained on full alert along the border and inside the security zone, while residents of "confrontation line" towns and villages in the North closely followed developments.

Fighting was reported in several parts of the zone on Friday. SLA troops on operational duties in the eastern sector discovered and safely neutralized a roadside bomb.

The soldiers came under mortar fire as they were dealing with the incident. Mortars were also fired at an SLA position in the western sector of the zone on Friday afternoon. There were no casualties in the incidents and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire. There have been over 110 incidents in the zone since the beginning of the year, during which five IDF soldiers and four from the SLA have been killed. At least 20 terrorists have been killed in various incidents including seven in initiated IDF operations.

Military sources noted that there has been a marked escalation in Hizbullah attacks and attempts to carry out operations that would cause mass IDF casualties in the past few weeks.

These included the abortive car bomb at the end of January; the failed suicide hang glider attack at the end of February; and two roadside bomb attacks close to the border this month in which five soldiers were killed and 14 wounded.

The latest serious attack, a combined roadside bomb blast and ambush, occurred last Thursday. Eight Golani Brigade soldiers were wounded in that incident, in which Hizbullah is also believed to have suffered casualties.

Hizbullah has also stepped up its propaganda campaign and psychological war, particularly against the SLA and residents of the security zone.

Following Thursday's attack, Hizbullah issued a statement on its television station saying "the tables have turned. The hunter has become the hunted and the Islamic Resistance has proven it has the initiative on the ground."

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, in an interview with another Lebanese television station, maintained that IDF operations on the ground had been very limited since 1985, and even the 1993 Operation Accountability was conducted primarily by air strikes and artillery bombardments.

"We are the ones fighting on the ground, not them," said Nasrallah.

Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, said yesterday that there is only a political solution to terminating Israel's last war front in south Lebanon, and Israelis must grit their teeth.

"The end will only come through a political solution," Lubrani said in an interview on Israeli Radio. "We cannot forget this. There is no military solution for it."

"There is a possibility to deal with the terror and Hizbullah activity for a certain amount of time, and I have no doubt that it will come. But, as the prime minister said, we will not dance to the tune of their flute. Instead we will do it when it is good and comfortable and beneficial for us."

(Continued on Page 2)

February CPI rises by unexpectedly high 0.9%

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE cost-of-living index rose by 0.9 percent in February, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported Friday.

Over the last six months, the COL rose by 6%, or 12% in annual terms, well over 1995's 8.1%.

Speaking to the Tel Aviv Commercial Club on Friday, Manufacturing Association President Dan Proper said the government had "sinned" when it raised public sector wages two years ago, while the Bank of Israel miscalculated the impact of its tight monetary policies which failed to stem consumer demand and only made life harder for exporters.

Proper estimated that the trade deficit, which already registered a record \$10 billion last year, will further balloon this year and ultimately hit the \$12 billion mark.

The COL Index's monthly increase reflects price appreciations in most consumption categories, particularly housing and food, which were not offset by declines in the prices of fruit, vegetables, clothing and footwear.

Housing loomed as the single category where prices registered

the steepest hike last month, 1.9%, particularly due to an increase in the prices of private apartments.

Housing prices rose despite the dollar's depreciation and a decline in the prices of construction materials.

However, real estate surveys published earlier this week indicate that after some six years of vigorous growth, the housing market may be bracing for a slowdown.

Food prices rose last month by 1.8%, thanks largely to the increase in the price of flour and fowl by 4.8% each.

Clothing and footwear prices plummeted 2.9%, and the CBS forecast a further decline in their prices throughout March, due to end-of-season sales.

Meanwhile, Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said Friday that the COL increase was larger than expected, and should serve as a warning to the government not to become complacent, and to reconsider its interest policy.

He said the sharp rise in housing prices was affecting young couples, and the government should examine the attractiveness of mortgages.

Arafat adviser: No date yet for PNC session

JON IMMANUEL

NO date has yet been set for convening the Palestinian National Council, and will not be set until all its members receive permits from Israel to attend, a senior adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh was responding to reports that it may be held on April 20 or by

the end of April. According to the Oslo 2 accord, it must be held before May 7, two months after the locally elected Palestinian Council convened, to cancel anti-Israel articles in the Palestinian Charter.

Information and Culture Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo said yesterday that "the plan is to convene before the end of April," but he also said it depended on Israel's attitude on issues like the closure and release of prisoners.

The PLO executive committee met late last night to discuss the convening of the PNC, the Sharm e-Sheikh conference, the closure and the new Palestinian cabinet.

Alien sighters gather in UFO's world capital

GULF BREEZE, Florida (Reuters) - Alien beings, taunting earthlings with repeated overflights in saucers and other exotic space crafts, have chosen this wealthy seaside town at the tip of the Florida panhandle to provide clues of extraterrestrial life.

That's what top experts in unidentified flying objects say, prompting hundreds of believers to gather here this weekend for the fourth annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference.

"It's the only place in the country or in the world that has these sightings repeatedly," said Walt Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network.

The Seguin, Texas, based-group said there are several UFO sightings per week in what some dub the "UFO Capital of the World."

The excitement started in 1987, when dozens of UFO sightings were reported in and around Gulf Breeze.

Homebuilder Ed Walters became the best known of the local spotters of life from the beyond after he went public in 1987 with photographs he claimed to

have taken of UFOs. During a six-month period he reported 20 sightings and took 39 photographs. At one point, he said he blacked out for about an hour after feeling the presence of a UFO, an experience he described in his book "The Gulf Breeze Sightings".

Naturally, skeptics abound. A local newspaper investigated Walters' reports and found a model UFO made of paper plates and some drafting paper in an attic at his former home. Some said the findings proved Walters had faked his photographs, but he said he was framed by skeptics.

These sightings are just one of many topics at the three-day conference, where 500 people from 32 states are comparing sightings and photographs of life from beyond our solar system.

All this UFO talk seems to embarrass some local residents, and Mayor Lane Gilchrist says there may be a logical explanation for all the sightings.

He said there are five military airfields nearby, as well as the Pensacola Regional Airport about five km away, which could account for why so many lights appear in the night skies around Gulf Breeze.

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Israel, US work out anti-terror pact

News agencies

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher agreed Friday on the principles of an Israel-US counterterrorism pact, expected to be signed when Peres visits Washington in April.

Christopher also said he would issue invitations to 29 countries to attend a meeting on March 28 in Washington that will attempt to build on the Sharm e-Sheikh summit.

Speaking at a news conference with Peres after the two met at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Christopher said US and Israeli experts working through the night had made "very substantial progress" on an anti-terrorism pact.

Christopher met with Peres together with Central Intelligence Director John Deutch and other senior Israeli officials.

Negotiations over the counterterrorism accord are dealing with how much more intelligence the US can share with Israel, including satellite photographs, information picked up by monitoring of communications, and intelligence gathered on the ground, US officials said.

OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon and GSS head Ami Ayalon are expected to be sent for negotiations with the US on security aspects of the pact.

The Americans accepted an Israel suggestion to set up a consultation mechanism in which the two countries' intelligence heads will meet periodically.

The US and Israel will make a new effort in the coming weeks to persuade Europe and Asia to toughen their policies toward Iran, believed to be a main sponsor of terror, Christopher



US Ambassador Martin Indyk (center) and Middle East peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross (left) take a break Friday afternoon after the visit of US President Bill Clinton, with a more relaxing meeting in a Tel Aviv cafe with Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir.

said. "The United States is convinced the time has come for our friends and allies in Asia and Europe to reconsider their stance toward Iran," he said, referring to the many countries who insist on a dialogue with Iran, in opposition to the US

strategy of isolating Tehran. President Bill Clinton announced here Thursday that Washington would provide an additional \$100 million to fund an expanded anti-terrorism program, including equipment and training. The package is to include more advanced bomb-de-

tection scanners, X-ray systems for people and material, robotics for handling suspect packages, and advanced thermal and radar sensors for detecting bombs. Experts teams "are close to finalizing" the equipment to be provided under the first \$50 mil-

lion installment, and most of it will be ready for shipment to Israel in the next few weeks, Christopher said. He stressed the need for Congress first to approve taking the funds from other Pentagon accounts. Some opposition has surfaced in Washington.

Three soldiers get 35 days for letting bomber slip through

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE army has dismissed a major, and has sentenced three soldiers to 35 days in jail for negligence for letting the Dizengoff suicide bomber slip through the Gaza Strip crossing, the army said.

A regional brigade commander with the rank of colonel and bearing overall responsibility for the Karni Crossing will be reprimanded by OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai. Yanai took the disciplinary action following an army investigation into the March 4 incident, where an Israeli Beduin hid the Gazan suicide bomber in his truck and snuck him into Israel without the soldiers noticing.

The soldiers were cited for failing to search the truck adequately before it left the crossing into Israel. The slip occurred despite heightened security alerts that were ordered following the three earlier suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

The major who commanded the Karni crossing will be removed from duty after an army investigation ruled that he did not follow through with security instructions as necessary, a military

official said. The three soldiers responsible for checking and registering the truck were tried in a military court by a colonel. They were charged with negligence, the army said.

The Karni crossing, which was designed to prevent infiltrations or smuggling, was to reopen this morning under stringent security controls. Trucks will no longer exchange their goods back-to-back, but will have to dump their loads on the ground and then reload it individually. Israeli and Palestinian drivers will be separated.

Security at the crossing point has since been beefed up, with a soldier assigned to each truck. The army is also using electronic devices and bomb-sniffing dogs to locate explosives, the army said.

The army's investigation was completed after the Israeli truck owner re-enacted for the police how he was able to sneak the suicide bomber and his pack rigged with explosives past Palestinian police and IDF soldiers and hid him in the cabin of his truck.

Iran says Israel behind German arrest warrant

NICOSIA (Reuters) - A government-controlled Iranian newspaper said yesterday that Israel was behind a German court decision to issue an arrest warrant for an Iranian minister.

Federal prosecutors in Germany said on Friday that the German authorities had issued a warrant for the arrest of Iranian intelligence minister Ali Fallahian in connection with the 1992 gangland-style murder of exiled Kurdish leaders in Berlin.

The English-language *Tehran Times* said the timing of the decision, shortly after Wednesday's "Summit of Peacekeepers" in Sharm e-Sheikh, was influenced by Israel.

"The Israeli influence on the court's procedure is clear to everyone," it said. "After the Sharm e-Sheikh summit failed to fulfill the desires of the Zionist regime, the court issued the warrant," said the

newspaper, quoted by IRNA news agency and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Some Iranian newspapers reported the German court's issue of the warrant but others ignored it. Radio and television made no mention of it.

Tehran Times criticized the court's handling of the case, which it said had been turned into "a platform for the political trial of a country."

It said the German government, which maintains what it calls a "dialogue with Tehran" despite the allegations, is "in a close ally, and must not take the present state of relations between the two countries for granted."

"German officials should bear in mind that Iran is not dependent on any country... Iranians will not compromise their national pride."

Peres meets with security forces on terror

Prime Minister Shimon Peres convened a meeting on Friday of the leaders of the security forces to assess the battle against Islamic terror. Peres was briefed on actions taken recently in Judea, Samaria and Gaza against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists, and against those who incite terrorism. Peres received information on the scope of arrests, enforcement of the closure, sealing and destruction of homes, and additional action. He also received a report on steps being taken by the Palestinian Authority.

Peres said that the struggle against terrorism must continue, but added that food should be allowed into the territories to prevent starvation of the Palestinian residents, and to allow other humanitarian activities within the boundaries of security needs.

Hadash, NRP prepare Knesset lists

THE Hadash party yesterday chose its candidates to run in the upcoming Knesset elections. The top three slots on the list went to MKs Hashem Mahmoud, Saleh Salim, and Tamar Gozansky.

The National Religious Party will rank its 17 Knesset candidates today, making it the first religious party to submit its list.

The NRP's 1,050 central committee members will select the candidates by secret balloting. NRP leader Ze'evulun Hammer has already been elected to head the list. The balloting will be held in Tel Aviv from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

It is expected that all of the NRP's six current MKs will be re-elected to the top ranks. Two of the candidates running are women, Dina Khan and Ziva Sivan. The hardi parties are expected to decide against forming a joint religious ticket if a woman is elected to a realistic slot on the NRP list.

Businessman Netanel Aloni killed in car accident

Netanel Aloni, 59, one of the owners of the Aloni marble conglomerate, was killed over the weekend in a car accident in Switzerland. Aloni was responsible for the company's expansion, which included the opening of stores throughout the country selling building materials, ceramic tiles and other items.

Rabbi Dr. ISRAEL JACOB HARRIS

passed away in New York on March 13, 1996.

Mourning by his brother: Solty Harris, Anita and Family

In deep sorrow we mourn the loss of

ESTHER MIRIAM FRIMER

widow of Rabbi Dr. Norman E. Frimer

The funeral took place on Friday, March 15, 1996 (24 Adar 5756) at Eretz Mahayim Cemetery, Shimon Junction (Bet Shamesh).

Shiva will be at the home of Rabbi Dov Frimer, 90/1 Mitzpeh Nevo (Cottage 21), Ma'aleh Adumim. Tel. 02-354018.

Her sons: Rabbi Aryeh Frimer
Rabbi Dov Frimer
Rabbi Shael Frimer
and Families.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

MARLENE GREBLER

in the spring of her life.

Her coffin will arrive in Israel tomorrow, Monday, March 18, 1996.

The funeral will take place at the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, at about 7:00 p.m.

A bus will leave the deceased's house at 6:30 p.m.

For details about the time of the funeral call: 02-246851

Her children: Daniel and May
The family and friends

Likud: Peres has 'zipper' policy toward Gaza

SARAH HONIG

THE Peres government is pursuing "a zipper policy, opening and closing Gaza at Arafat's convenience," the Likud said yesterday in reaction to news that the closure is to be eased.

"The latest moves to ease the closure in Gaza prove yet again that this government has no real solution to terror," MK Limor Livnat, who heads the Likud's information drive, said last night.

"When it comes to the closure this government in effect tells Israel's citizens that the slogan of separation is nothing but empty campaign propaganda. Those who cannot keep Gaza closed off for longer than a week, in any case cannot implement their far-fetched campaign

promises." MK Ze'ev Begin said there was a link between easing the closure and the government's refusal to publish Deputy Chief of Intelligence Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror's paper on Arafat's attitude to terrorists within his jurisdiction. The paper was put together for the US Congress after Prime Minister Shimon Peres refused to allow Amidror to testify before a congressional committee. Begin asserts that the refusal to publish it in full is "flagrant political censorship."

He maintains that no classified information is contained in the paper and the effort to

conceal its content is intended "to keep under wraps the understanding reached between the PLO and the Hamas last December in which Arafat permitted the Hamas to carry out terrorist attacks inside Israel."

"The essence of the Amidror report is that Arafat prefers an understanding with Hamas to combatting it. Arafat does not believe that his position would be critically damaged if his present relations with the Hamas continue. Arafat can and must, according to the Oslo accords, battle the terrorists but has so far shown no resolve whatever to actually do so. He does not think that his task is to help Israel fight against terrorism beyond foiling some attacks," Begin said.

Hamas leader jailed in US to call Arafat as witness at hearing

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A lawyer for Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, the Hamas political leader awaiting an extradition hearing at Israel's request, said on Friday he planned to seek a deposition from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as a character witness.

Attorney Stanley Cohen said Arafat "knows that Abu Marzook was not involved in directing, ordering and dictating any of the acts attributed to him."

Arafat is aware "that Hamas is

a compartmentalized organization with separate and various political and social service entities," Cohen said, adding that Arafat "has dealt with the various factions and he knows that Mousa Abu Marzook was the head of the political bureau."

Cohen said Arafat's deposition would be taken "somewhere in the Middle East. If I were him, I wouldn't set foot in New York City, given strongman Rudolph Giuliani's abuse."

New York Mayor Giuliani con-

tinually refers to Arafat as a terrorist. He snubbed Arafat at the UN 50th Anniversary celebration last October by not inviting him to two official functions including a Lincoln Center concert.

Cohen said the political wing of Hamas is similar to Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA. He spoke outside the Manhattan Federal Courthouse after Judge Kevin Duffy said a two-day hearing would start on March 25 regarding witnesses who will testify during the extradition process.

Immigration officials stopped Abu Marzook at Kennedy International Airport in New York on July 25 because his name was on a list of suspected terrorists. He is being held at the Metropolitan Correction Center in lower Manhattan.

The Israeli government said in papers filed with the US Attorney that it is seeking Abu Marzook's extradition to bring him to trial for numerous murders and criminal responsibility for 10 attacks carried out by the Hamas organization.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ran Cohen demands removal of Egged head
Meretz MK Ran Cohen demanded yesterday that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Transport Minister Yisrael Kassar act to immediately remove Egged chairman Shlomo Levine from office, who he said has admitted being involved in mafia-related businesses.

Cohen called on Kassar to use his power to prevent Egged from holding elections meant to give Levine another term of office.

Man killed in crash near Ramle

Michael Katz, 60, of Moshav Ramot Meir, was killed Friday afternoon when the car he was driving crashed head-on into a truck on the Ramle-Bilu road. A Magen David Adom team arrived from Rehovot and declared him dead on the scene.

Police said Katz's car veered into the opposite lane and hit the truck, whose driver suffered light injuries.

BOMBINGS

(Continued from Page 1)

union representatives yesterday said he would call on Israel directly and through the UN to find a way of maintaining security without imposing a full closure.

The Palestinian Authority estimates losses from the closure in Gaza and the West Bank at \$2 million to \$3 million a day from salaries alone, and about the same in loss of trade.

Demonstrations against the closure continued yesterday in Gaza and at the Karni crossing,

where farmers spilled crates of vegetables after they went rotten because only 40 truckloads of produce were allowed through each day.

In Fawar refugee camp near Hebron, where the two February 25 suicide bombers lived, Israeli members of the Hebron solidarity committee smuggled in food through a back road after being forbidden to bring food into the camp by the IDF. Fawar and four other localities remain under a village closure and residents cannot leave.

HIZBULLAH

(Continued from Page 1)

Lubrani said even if Syria withdrew its support for Hizbullah, the group would still be able to function with the help of Iran.

"I am not completely certain, and I say this on purpose, that even if Syria decides not to support terror, that Hizbullah will

not find a way in Lebanon to continue to do something. Not on the same level of activity, but certainly Hizbullah, with support and funding and arming that it gets from Iran, can function on its own," Lubrani said.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

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China denies telling US it won't attack Taiwan

BEIJING (Reuters) - China denied yesterday it had told Washington it would not attack Taiwan, saying its determination to retake the estranged island by force if necessary remained unchanged.

"These reports have no foundation," state radio quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang as saying.

"China has never promised to give up the use of force, though of course this (force) is not directed at the Taiwan compatriots."

A US Defense Department spokesman said Thursday that the Clinton administration had received public and private assurances that China did not intend to attack Taiwan.

"In public and in private conversations, the United States has been assured that the Chinese do not intend to take any military action against Taiwan," the spokesman, US Navy Captain Mike Doubleday, said in Washington.

In Taipei, Taiwan's president called yesterday for at least 50 percent support at the polls next week to give him a strong hand to deal with belligerent China.

Shortly after he made his remarks, some 20,000 angry residents marched through Taipei streets to protest against Chinese war games and called for independence for Taiwan.

"This presidential election is very important," Lee Teng-hui told a campaign rally in the run-up to the March 23 election, the first direct vote for the island's president.

"Only if we can get half of the votes will it allow the Nationalists to continue to hold power and let the government with a high level of popular support smoothly push through policy," he added.

Lee is chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party.

Lee, frontrunner in the polls, is

walking a fine line between those who support independence and those who want to appease China and take a more conciliatory stance.

He argues that a strong show of support will let him deal with Beijing on the shape of future relations driven by considerable economic ties.

Yesterday, the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party staged its biggest rally since China stepped up its sabre-rattling on March 5 with the announcement of missile tests off Taiwan.

Protesters waved a banner reading "Hands off Taiwan" and carried a mock missile and a cloth effigy of Chinese President Jiang Zemin labeled "Big China Invades Taiwan."

Frank Hsieh, the pro-independence candidate for vice-president, said in a televised debate that Taiwan could not dance to China's tune.

He said that if Taiwan looked to Beijing's reaction to decide whether to declare independence, it would eventually take its cue from China on other matters.

"Should we ask them whether we want to hold elections?" he asked.

Sounding a warning, independent vice-presidential candidate Hau Pei-tsun said tough talk was easy for those who had not seen war. Hau is a retired general who backs eventual reunification.

China and Taiwan have been divided since the end of a civil war in 1949. Beijing views Taiwan as a renegade province and has threatened to invade if it declares independence.

China unveiled plans for more war games despite a US naval armada being sent to the region and international appeals for restraint.



Dunblane residents attend a church vigil over the weekend in memory of victims of last week's massacre in the Scottish town. (Reuters)

UK to observe minute of silence for 16 murdered kindergartners

DUNBLANE (AP) - After the whole town turned out in a vigil, the whole nation - from news networks to supermarkets - is due to observe a minute's silence today to honor 16 massacred kindergartners and their teacher.

Yesterday, extra flowers were shipped into Dunblane from Glasgow to add to the sea of tributes piling up under overcast skies along a stone wall linking entrances to the school where Thomas Hamilton perpetrated mass murder and then killed himself.

Some 500 stuffed animals which also arrived as tributes were displayed in the main entrance, brought indoors from the icy weather and spitting rain.

"There's a worldwide expression of grief here," police Chief Supt. George Matchett told reporters. "Others are arriving all the time."

In one corner stood 17 little stuffed sheep, 11 with pink horns for each of the murdered girls,

five with blue horns for the boys, and one with no horns and the message, "With love to the brave teacher."

Flowers from couple in Eugene, Oregon, Tom and Ronnie Woolly, carried a message beginning, "Our hearts will never be more saddened."

One teddy bear carried the date of the massacre and the message, "This day God overslept."

Long lines of people wound through the streets and the churchyard to pack Dunblane's beautiful 13th century cathedral during a mourning vigil.

The BBC and other national news networks announced Saturday they will fall silent at 9.30 a.m. today, which is Mother's Day.

Britain's 14 main train stations, from the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, to London in south-east England, will also observe the silence, Railtrack, the operating company said.

The major supermarket chains said they will stop their tills.

Prime Minister John Major backed the plan for today's silence during a visit on Friday. He added his wreath at the school, looked at the bullet-scarred gymnasium where Hamilton, 43, shot the children, and said, "They must tear it down."

The school is scheduled to reopen on Friday after the end of the days of funerals.

In the first, two of the five-year-olds, Emma Crozier and Joanna Ross, who were close friends, will be buried in their nearby hometown, Bridge of Allan.

"They were bright little girls, wee sparklers, little buttons," said the Rev. William Gilmour, minister at the church both children attended. "Everyone in the church knew them and knew their families."

Teacher Gwenne Mayor, 45, will be buried Thursday.

The Rev. Colin McIntosh, minister of Dunblane Cathedral, said up to six funerals would be held there next week, and will be staggered for that relatives of the victims can attend all the services.

Queen Elizabeth II switched her schedule and will come here today with her daughter Princess Anne instead of tomorrow, when funerals are due to start.

One of the 12 injured children remained in critical condition yesterday, said a spokesman at Yorkhill Hospital in Glasgow.

Amie Adam had a relapse after surgery to her shattered thigh. Doctors say she may be permanently disabled.

The massacre has raised questions about how Hamilton, a suspected homosexual pedophile, was licensed by police to own firearms under Britain's strict gun control laws.

Hamilton, widely regarded locally as unstable and unsavory, was angered by attempts by local authorities to stop him running boys' clubs.

Shortly before the massacre, Hamilton wrote a rambling letter to the queen, in which he denied he was a "pervert."

Clinton raps gun lobby, House over terrorism bill

WASHINGTON (Reuters) President Bill Clinton said yesterday Republicans in the US House of Representatives had gutted his anti-terrorism bill after listening to the "back-alley whispers" of the gun lobby.

Despite last year's bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City, and four recent suicide bombings in Israel, the House had taken the teeth out of the administration's efforts to fight terrorism, Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

Conservative Republicans, led by Georgia Representative Bob Barr, diluted the legislation, fearing it gave the government too much new power.

The president noted the irony of the decisive vote coming while he attended a counter-terrorism summit in Egypt with two dozen other world leaders.

"On the same day that I was in the Middle East rallying the world community to fight terrorism, some in Congress, led by Republicans, were taking apart piece by piece the tough legislation designed to beat back that very threat," he said.

Clinton called it unbelievable that the House, in fact, voted to give law enforcement officials fewer tools to fight terrorism than they had to fight "far less horrible" crimes in the United States.

He noted the House had stripped a provision to chemically mark explosive materials terrorists use to build bombs because the Washington gun lobby opposed it.

"The House and the Washington gun lobby are against giving law enforcement the ability to trace explosives," Clinton said.

The president said the House version of the bill would allow such terrorist groups as Hamas, which has claimed responsibility for the recent attacks in Israel, to continue to raise money in the United States by stripping the Justice Department's authority to designate organizations as terrorist.

Clinton also complained that the House voted against allowing the quicker deportation of foreigners who supported terrorist activities and rejected a provision that would have helped to protect police from "cop-killer" bullets.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) told Congress this week the bill would jeopardize individual freedoms, while the National Rifle Association (NRA) said it feared the government would use its added powers to restrict gun ownership.

The amended bill passed 229-191.

OJ prosecutor slams judge, jury, defense

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Christopher Darden said O.J. Simpson may have gotten all the breaks the first time around: a weak judge, a cynically savvy defense team, a racist cop and a jury with an agenda.

But none of that will matter, Darden warns, on Simpson's next day of judgment - and he's not talking about the civil trial.

"There (will) be another court that would hear his case one day, ... a court where there will be no need for DNA, gloves or Akitas, and the only witnesses will be the eyewitnesses, Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown," Darden writes in his new book.

The prosecutor, who, with colleague Marcia Clark, was on the losing team, has a lot to say in his book, *In Contempt*, and much of it is critical - of the judge, jury, attorneys and himself.

Justice, Darden says, was not served in the trial of the former football star.

"Collectively, we're all a bunch of failures," Darden said in an interview on ABC television's news magazine "20/20."

Launching a publicity campaign for his book, Darden called the trial "a monumental waste of time and taxpayers' money" and said Simpson's speedy acquittal was "unfair" to the victims.

In *Contempt*, to be released on Wednesday, discusses everything from Darden's childhood shopping adventures to his festering hatred for former police Detective Mark Fuhrman, according to excerpts purchased by *Newsweek*.

"I felt completely uncomfortable with him. There was something eerie about the guy. I watched all the other deputy DAs' smile and agree that he would make a very good witness. But I was sick," wrote Darden, according to excerpts in tomorrow's issue of the magazine.

Darden's publisher said the excerpt rights were purchased by *Newsweek* for an undisclosed sum. Neither *Newsweek* nor the publisher would discuss the deal.

In the television interview, Darden said there was plenty of blame for the trial's outcome, starting at the top with Superior Court Judge Lance Ito. Darden accused Ito of letting the defense run the trial.

"(Defense lawyer) Johnnie Cochran ran that courtroom, not Judge Ito," Darden said. "He surrendered his gavel, essentially. ... The law was being ignored, there was no judge."

Ito declined to comment, according to court spokeswoman Jerrienne Hayslett.

Mugabe votes in Zimbabwe poll

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - After stopping two challengers from pulling out of an election they had no chance of winning, President Robert Mugabe cast his ballot yesterday to extend his 16-year rule and denied he ran a dictatorship.

Confident enough about victory that he flew afterwards to Johannesburg, South Africa, to meet President Nelson Mandela on regional issues, Mugabe told journalists there: "Obviously, we will win it."

Mugabe criticized his opponents for trying to "withdraw at the last minute when they found the going was too tough for them. When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

Saying he would "dismiss with contempt" criticism from the United States that democracy is eroding in Zimbabwe, Mugabe said that state funds would be made available to any party that could gain 15 seats in the 150-member parliament.

At present, the opposition holds only three seats, and Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front receives millions of dollars of state

funds to fight elections for which it writes the rules. Opposition groups receive no funds.

"We are very democratic," Mugabe insisted. "We have a multi-party system. We finance parties which have demonstrated they have a membership in Parliament."

In Zimbabwe, early turnout was light on the first of two days of presidential polling, with some potential voters apparently heeding an opposition boycott and others succumbing to apathy in a race long decided in advance.

"It's been slow so far," said Ismael Mabika, an officer at a Harare polling station where only 31 people voted in three hours. "People don't look interested."

Mugabe needs at least the semblance of an electoral mandate to counter perceptions that he has turned a country once seen as Africa's brightest hope for democracy into a dictatorship.

The 72-year-old president cast his ballot in Highfield, the township suburb where he lived as a young political activist against British colonial rule in what was then called Rhodesia.

Moldovan army leadership in crisis

CHISINAU (Reuters) - Moldova's parliament held an emergency meeting yesterday to debate a leadership crisis in the armed forces sparked by a presidential decision to sack the former Soviet republic's defense minister.

As deputies prepared to rule on the legality of President Mircea Snegur's move, soldiers blockaded incumbent Defense Minister Pavel Creanga in his office on the outskirts of the Moldovan capital.

The tension has triggered fears of unrest in the tiny state of four million people sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine.

Creanga has refused to step down, saying the order was unconstitutional. The law says government members may be dismissed only at the prime minister's request or by a vote in parliament.

Snegur, who is also commander-in-chief, said the army accepted and obeyed his order replacing Creanga, who is accused of corruption, with General Tudor Dabija.

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NATO's Secretary-General Javier Solana and US Commander Gen. George Joulwan (left) talk with Russian troops over the weekend after a meeting in IFOR headquarters in Bijeljina in eastern Bosnia. (Reuters)

Grenades hurled at firemen in Serb-held Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Hand grenades were thrown at Muslim-Croat Federation firefighters battling a blaze in the last Serb-held district of Sarajevo, NATO said yesterday.

The attack raised doubts whether non-Serb firemen would continue fighting blazes started by Serb arsonists in Grbavica.

Most Serbs have already left the district which, under the Dayton peace agreement, is scheduled to come under Muslim-Croat federation control on Tuesday.

Fleeing Serbs have looted or burned property and Muslim gangs have baited the few Serbs who stayed behind. The violence and hatred mock the hope that reunited Sarajevo would be a multi-ethnic city.

The Muslim-led government drew criticism from UN officials for failing to stop gangs looting and terrorizing Sarajevo Serbs.

UN spokesman Alexander Ivankovic said that in Ilidza, which was handed over to government control this week, police of the Muslim-Croat Federation appeared "indifferent" to chaos and to preserving law and order.

"Two federation policemen were seen laughing and encouraging Muslims when they were

verbally insulting Serbs and trying to force them to leave their houses," he added.

"The United Nations is concerned and even puzzled by the attitude of the federation authorities towards preserving a multi-ethnic society in Bosnia.

"We hear numerous statements advocating a multi-ethnic Bosnia but when it comes to reality, flood-gates are opened and gangs are allowed to terrorize people with impunity as has happened in Ilidza in the last 72 hours."

Ivankovic said most of the remaining 10,000 Serbs in the five suburbs, who had braved threats from Serb separatists to stay on in the first place, now wanted to leave.

Sarajevo's former Olympic village of Dobrinja has become another potential flash-point as Muslims and Serbs anxiously await a decision by Tuesday on a disputed boundary line which will determine who lives where.

The pencil line drawn on a map at Dayton ended up being 50 meters thick on the ground and bisected several large buildings hundreds of feet north of the street now serving as de facto boundary between Muslims and Serbs.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher

has summoned the presidents of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia, and mediators from the major powers, to Geneva tomorrow to keep the peace process on course.

Russian diplomatic sources said however that Russia would not attend, the Kremlin seeing little point less than a week before foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, Britain, France and Germany meet counterparts from the three Balkan states in Moscow.

Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic told a conference of potential donor nations in Sarajevo yesterday war destruction to Bosnia amounted to more than \$80 billion and the country would need \$16 billion for the "most essential needs."

Potential donor countries meeting in Turkey Friday offered little more than \$100 million to bring Bosnia's Muslim-Croat forces up to the standard of the Bosnian Serbs, well short of the \$1 billion the Bosnian government says it needs.

Most of the money promised came from the United States. No European Union country made any immediate pledge, the diplomats said.

Bahrain arrests arsonists amid more unrest

MANAMA (Reuters) - Bahrain said yesterday it had arrested those responsible for a fire-bomb attack on a restaurant in which seven Bangladeshi workers died.

But residents reported more suspected arson attacks and anti-government unrest in the Gulf island, a financial hub.

"Security authorities have arrested the group which carried out an attack on a restaurant in Sitra," a government official said.

The official gave no further details, but said the Interior Ministry would issue a detailed statement later.

In Saudi Arabia, foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council yesterday opened a regular meeting that was overshadowed by pressing issues such as a recent failed coup in Qatar and the continuing political unrest in Bahrain.

The GCC - grouping Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait - condemned the Bahrain attack and hinted at foreign involvement.

Qatar, which stormed out of a GCC summit in Oman in December, sent its foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani, to yesterday's session at the organization's headquarters in Riyadh.

Bahrain, smallest of the GCC states, has been gripped by political unrest since December 1994. But in recent weeks, violence has intensified.

A Bangladesh embassy spokesman said yesterday the victims of a blaze at a restaurant in the small island of Sitra have all been identified as Bangladeshi workers.

He named them as Mohammed Delwar, Mohammad Manjur, Zulfikar Ali, Mainuddin (one name), Alamgir Hossain, Sharbat (one name) and Mohammad Shuruj Mia. He said they had been working in various sectors in Bahrain.

Residents said yesterday fire destroyed a sports club and riot police used teargas to disperse anti-government protests on Friday night in what appeared to be an escalation of violence in Bahrain.

They also said riot police sealed the area near a girl's school in Hamad Town, 11 miles southwest of Manama yesterday, after a fire there. They gave no details.

Friday night firefighters battled flames which gutted the A'ali Sports Club in the Shi'ite village of A'ali, 15 km south of Manama.

Riot police fired teargas at protesters and sealed off three

Shi'ite-dominated villages Jidhafs, Sanabis and Daib - for the second night and closed the main road linking the villages with Manama.

Protests broke out in the area on Thursday, two days after Taber Sameeh, a suspected bank bomber, was buried. Officials said Sameeh was killed instantly when a bomb he was planting at a bank this month went off. Two men were injured, one seriously.

Preachers at mosques during Friday prayers condemned the murder of the seven and said such acts of terrorism violated the teachings of Islam and threatened the lives of innocent people. They called for measures to stamp out such acts.

"Terrorist acts could not be linked to political work. Terrorism is terrorism and politics is politics," Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim al-Mutawass told al-Ayam newspaper.

He said security had been stepped up in several areas to prevent the repetition of violence. He gave no details.

Around 200,000 foreigners live in Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial centre, mainly unskilled workers from the Indian sub-continent. They represent more than one third of Bahrain's 550,000 population.

Holland's Fokker collapses after 77 years, 5,600 to lose jobs

News agencies
AMSTERDAM

THE Dutch nation yesterday mourned the loss of 77 years of aviation expertise after the collapse of pioneering aircraft maker Fokker NV left 5,600 workers facing a bleak future in the jobless queue.

"The pain is huge," was the simple headline in the *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper.

"Not just for the workers, shareholders and creditors. No company has held the public attention over the past 10 years as much as Fokker," it said in an editorial.

The regional jet maker, whose founder supplied tri-planes to German World War I fighters, was forced into bankruptcy after losing a desperate struggle to find a buyer.

"Fokker spoke to the imagination, it made a nation proud," the *Dagblad* said. "Because a country that builds its own airplanes, has something unassailable."

Over 5,600 workers received redundancy packages yesterday, the country's largest corporate mass redundancy since World War II, ending weeks of uncertainty while the beleaguered plane-maker sought a rescuer.

Fokker's collapse also dealt a huge blow to the biggest private employer in Northern Ireland, the aviation contractor Short Brothers PLC, which said it now has 1,000 "surplus" employees.

The company was not immediately able to say how many of them will be forced out of their jobs, although it hopes to minimize the impact.

Shorts has built wings for Fokker's model 100 and model 70 aircraft in a deal worth about \$115 million a year, or 17 percent of the company's business.

Shorts halted production of the Fokker wings Friday, saying it wanted to clarify whether any more will be needed. Shorts sent 700 workers home, with full pay for now.

Shorts will likely layoff a number of these workers, but says it will try to redeploy

some of them and persuade others to take voluntary early retirement.

Shorts also will negotiate with the British government to try to place some of the workers into retraining programs that would prepare them for future contracts it has in the works.

Fokker had pinned its hopes on an eleventh hour bid from South Korea's Samsung, keen to plunder the Dutch firm's technical expertise, but the Asian company failed to come up with an offer before Fokker's credit line expired.

The *Dagblad* said any rescue by an Asian suitor "would simply have been a stay of execution... as by the turn of the century production would have been transferred to the Far East."

Volkskrant newspaper called Fokker's demise a "low point in Dutch social history."

"Fokker is not just a social drama, but an industrial tragedy for the Netherlands. There is no denying that an economy is better off with some kind of high calibre industry than without," it said.

Woman killed best friend to get baby

TUSCALOOSA, Alabama (AP) - A woman has been charged with murder for allegedly shooting her pregnant best friend in the head and stealing her newborn daughter from her womb.

Felicia Scott, 29, was jailed without bail yesterday. The infant, who is about 6 weeks old, was doing well and was in state custody, said

Tom Lowe, chief of the sheriff's department homicide division.

"The (mother's) body had been cut in the abdominal area, I am told, sufficiently to have removed an infant," said District Attorney Charles Freeman.

Ms. Scott is accused of killing Caretha Curry after taking her out for pizza Jan. 31. Ms. Curry

was nearly nine months pregnant.

Ms. Curry's body was found at the foot of a ravine near Birmingham, suffled in a plastic garbage can. She had been shot repeatedly in the head.

Lowe said Ms. Scott had always been a suspect but that the investigation had been at a standstill until the body was found.

Murder charges were filed after Ms. Curry's body was found at the foot of a ravine near Birmingham, suffled in a plastic garbage can. She had been shot repeatedly in the head.

Lowe said Ms. Scott had always been a suspect but that the investigation had been at a standstill until the body was found.

Gerry Adams, to march in St. Pat's parade

NEW YORK (AP) - Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams strode across Fifth Avenue's green center stripe and into St. Patrick's Cathedral yesterday for the Mass that traditionally precedes the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Adams, no stranger to controversy, planned to march later. Sinn Fein is the legal political party allied with Ireland's outlawed Irish Republican Army.

Protests by the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization, barred by a federal judge from getting a permit for a pre-parade protest march, also promised to liven the annual event.

Members and supporters vowed to march about an hour before the parade, and to stage peaceful protests along the route.

New outlook with narrowed presidential field

DAVID BRISCOE
WASHINGTON

NOW that a Clinton-Dole showdown seems inevitable, state-by-state primary elections are losing their luster, but not their importance to a Republican party seeking unity for November.

Picking up convention delegates in primaries and by other means could still be vital for both presumptive Republican nominee, Bob Dole, and the fiery Pat Buchanan, his lone challenger.

Dole needs to draw the party together. Buchanan, who has left the door open for a third-party run if Republicans reject his views, needs support to push his anti-trade, anti-foreign aid, anti-abortion agenda and other issues on the Republican convention.

Dole's home state, Kansas, canceled its April primary to save \$1.4 million on balloting that Dole and Clinton were sure to win.

But several other states have yet to vote, including four on Tuesday - Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin - and the biggest of all,

California, a week later.

Dole still needs 255 more delegates to seal the nomination, while Buchanan is trying to gather delegates to strengthen support at the August convention in San Diego.

Now that publisher Steve Forbes has stopped the spending of his family fortune at \$30 million and endorsed Dole, all suspense is gone from the Republican race - but not the uncertainty over how much trouble Dole will face at the convention.

On the Democratic side, President Clinton is already assured of the nomination, having gone over the top with his 2,146th delegate pledged last week. In one of the least politically significant primary states, Hawaii.

The battle for delegates in both parties is at the center of a system in which every vote doesn't necessarily count for nomination once a

majority is reached, and even a loss can add delegates, at least in states that do not have winner-take-all rules.

Candidate selection in the major US political parties is a complex, erratic, myth-filled and sometimes mysterious process.

Dole lost the first primary in New Hampshire, his third loss there in three tries for the presidency, but went on to shatter the myth that as New Hampshire goes, so goes the nation. He next won 17 straight primaries.

The actual nomination of candidates does not take place in New Hampshire or any other state, but at the conventions - Aug. 12-15 for the Republicans and Aug. 26-29 in Chicago for the Democrats.

Candidates, however, usually have the nomination locked up even before the convention starts. Dole is on his way to doing that with 741 of the 996 delegates he needs. The Democratic convention has more voting delegates, so Clinton needed more to win.

Each state and party has its own rules for picking delegates. Some hold primaries where the voters either pick presidential candidates directly or vote for delegates pledged to them. Others hold party caucuses, or meetings, where delegates pledged to various candidates are selected. Some delegates are picked by party leaders or in state party conventions.

Each delegate could be important to Buchanan if he intends to stay in the party and sway the convention, and the nominee - to adopt his ultra-conservative views. Forbes, who will be a delegate, might use his newly-gained influence and his handful of delegates to push his flat income tax.

Under Republican convention rules, the platform committee, with two members chosen by each state delegation, makes its decisions with a simple majority vote.

To force an issue to a convention vote, a dissenter would need majorities in the delegations of six states, one to propose the change and five more to second it. (AP)

GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON VACATION

Most government offices will be closed during Hol Hamo'ed Pessah from Wednesday, April 3 to Wednesday, April 10, inclusive.

Aside from emergency assistance, no services will be provided. Before Pessah, a list of the offices and departments that will be closed will be published as well as information on the emergency services available to the public.

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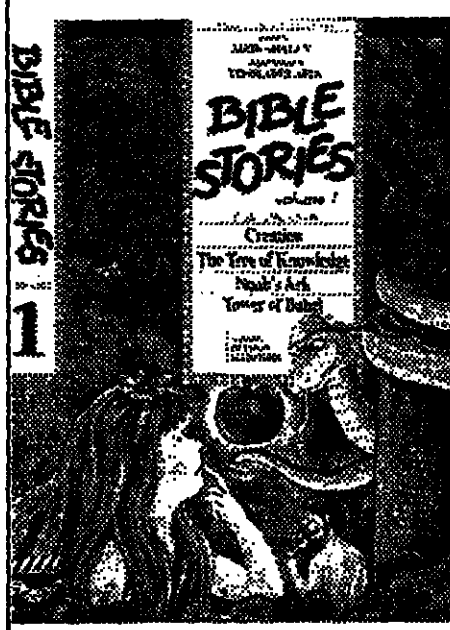
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Interactive Haggada brings Seder to life

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

A timeless piece of Jewish software – perhaps the best Pesach-related invention since machine-made matza – has been created by a talented multimedia team in Jerusalem.

Called *The Interactive Haggadah*, the highly imaginative new CD-ROM speaks in Hebrew, English and Russian (and the forthcoming edition will feature French and Spanish as well). The disk will undoubtedly be a hit here and in the Diaspora, among both the religious and even those assimilated souls who never heard of "Had Gadya."

The NIS 149.95 (\$49.95) disk, available from *The Jerusalem Post's* book department and computer stores, has been produced by CD-JEMM (Jewish Multimedia Magazine) Productions.

Established in 1994, this private company has 13 full-time staffers and brings together a variety of freelance talents in the field of animation, design, screenplay writing, computer programming and music.

Last fall, the company launched the first Jewish multimedia magazine on CD-ROM, called CD-JEMM. Hundreds of subscribers will soon receive their third quarterly disk by mail.

"When we started the company, we wanted the multimedia magazine to be the flagship, but we also planned to do a small number of other Judaica software titles," says Meir Fachler, the company's British-born vice president who was associate producer of *The Interactive Haggadah*.

In deciding to produce the CD-ROM, "we contacted Jonathan Lubell of Scopos Films, who mentioned the already-existing *Animated Haggadah* video and book produced with plasticine figures by animator Ronni Oren," he says. "These figures are familiar on the Disney Channel on cable TV in the US and are very popular."

CD-JEMM decided to obtain the rights to the plasticine figures, but only a few of the original designs were used on the CD-ROM. CD-JEMM hired animators who built their own figures of a seven-member family sitting around the seder table, as well as Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh and other biblical characters.

The disk, which took eight



The Interactive Haggadah comes complete in a clever, artistic box.

months to make, was produced and directed by Lubell and has been released just in time for the holiday. "We got in before the deadline by the skin of our teeth," he says.

The disk comes in an imaginative box: Open it and Pharaoh and his court appear as three-dimensional, pop-up figures. "We are the first CD-ROM company to produce such packaging," says Fachler. "It adds to the expense, but it's really worth it."

Click on the icon and you're presented with a home screen showing a grandfather, grandmother, father, mother and three children – all made of plasticine – sitting at the seder table. The user is encouraged to click on all of the characters and the many objects on the table (Haggadah, candlesticks, wine cups, wine bottle, seder plate, matza) or elsewhere

in the room. Clicking on some of them more than once produces different, rather than repeated, reactions.

Click on the Haggadah in front of the grandmother or grandfather and you get a list of the 14 sections of the Haggadah. Click each of them and the animated grandfather illustrates the theme and sings the title words. Then you can go into the section to see the text in Hebrew with its chosen translation.

Accompanying this is a glossary of words from *afikoman* to Torah, plus a detailed explanation of how to conduct the seder and separate commentaries for adults and children. The entire text is chanted, and the songs are sung to well-known melodies. The entire Haggadah covers 115 different computer "pages" or screens. Although the Haggadah itself is

serious and authoritative, the disk is full of fun for the whole family.

While working from the home page, the user is often confronted with a frog or piece of matza. Click on the frog, and an animated video of the Ten Plagues is depicted in plasticine. Click fast on the matza and you can fill in the parts of a puzzle. When the puzzle is completed, the user gets a "prize."

If the user selects a grandfather clock in the background, he is transported into ancient Egypt. A signpost offers a selection of the Nile River, the Burning Bush, the Red Sea, the Land of Goshen, Pharaoh's Court, and Slavery. The user searches each vignette with his mouse; when an arrow turns into the palm of a hand, click – and the animated characters move and tell a story.

When the Israelites cross the Red Sea with the Egyptians racing after them, the accompanying sound is the bugle of the US cavalry. At the burning bush, Moses admonishes the baby goat: "Why do you keep getting lost, kid?"

In the Land of Goshen, an Israelite takes a gold vase from her Egyptian neighbor and says: "I'd like to borrow this for, say, 10,000 years. Thank you." And as another Israelite lifts a heavy block under the whip of his taskmasters, he sings "I wanna be free!" to the tune of an American musical.

Click on a photograph on the dining-room wall, and you get a choice of four Pesach-themed puzzles whose parts must be pushed into the right place. Select the kitchen behind the table, and you're presented with a shelf full of Pesach cookbooks. Click each of them to get kosher-for-Pesach recipes for main courses, desserts and so on. All of these can be printed out in full, as can the complete text of the Haggadah.

Choosing grandfather results in a quiz. He asks questions, such as "Who led the dancing after the Israelites passed through dry land and the Egyptians drowned in the sea?" or "What was Moses looking for when he encountered the Burning Bush?" Over a dozen questions are posed, and the user clicks on one of three answers.

Other selections show an explanation for the symbolic items on the seder plate, how to search for leaven, what the four cups of wine symbolize, how to recite the blessing on the wine and the candles, and how to make wine and matza. And a jukebox presents nearly a dozen songs from the Haggadah in sound and text (with transliterations in the language of choice).

The initiated can listen to snippets of the tunes (in varying levels of difficulty) and guess what it is. One can also sing along with the Four Questions in a karaoke-like format.

"We anticipate that families will study the Haggadah in advance of the seder, even printing out the text and the commentary, and then use the printouts during the course of the ceremony," says Fachler. "Of course we don't want people to turn on their computer during the seder. But if the disk manages to spark interest in Pesach and bring Jews closer to their heritage, then *dayenu!*"

Study: Gulf War stress did not increase number of heart attacks

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

In a study relevant to the nation's psychological condition today, cardiologists have found that the stress of the Gulf War did not cause a significant increase in the number of cases of sudden cardiac death (SCD).

Writing in the latest issue of the *Israel Journal of Medical Sciences*, Drs. Daniel Weisenberg, Simcha Meisel and Daniel David of Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava and Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine report on their efforts to identify a possible correlation between severe anxiety among Israelis during the Gulf War and the incidence of SCD.

Previous research has found that acute stress can provoke a cardiovascular response that may lead to an acute coronary condition. Forceful contraction of the cardiac muscle can cause plaque (fatty accumulations inside the coronary arteries) to rupture and dislodge itself, causing a heart attack. Extreme stress can increase the production of neurotransmitters and lead to blood clots in the heart.

The Gulf War, they write, offered a unique opportunity to evaluate the effects of fear and acute stress on the incidence of SCD in the civilian population. Conducting a retrospective study, they looked at the number of people who died of SCD during the first 10 days of the war five years ago and five other periods in quiet times. They also examined how often cardiopulmonary resuscitation was carried out and how frequently it was successful in saving the patient.

The Meir Hospital researchers found the incidence of SCD during the war's early days was somewhat higher than in the other periods, but "did not reach statis-

tical significance." In addition, SCD was not significantly more common in areas that took the most beating from Iraq's Scud missiles than in areas that did not serve as targets.

ALMOST KILLED BY GLOVES

A man who must wear latex gloves on the job for many hours daily and went into anaphylactic shock several times during the past year has been diagnosed with a rare allergy to rubber.

Over the years, the man developed itching on his hands and then a rash all over his body. Doctors were unsuccessful in pinning down the cause. After his symptoms worsened and he lost consciousness several times he was referred to the allergy department at Kupat Hofim Clalit's Lin Clinic in Haifa.

A doctor there suspected that the man was allergic to latex, a condition that reportedly has caused the death of 15 people in the US during the past few years. A special blood test showed a high level of antibodies to latex. He was given an epidural needle containing adrenaline to save himself in the event of anaphylactic shock, and advised to avoid contact with latex.

Sterile gloves, balloons, condoms and catheters are all made from latex. Such a severe reaction is rare, and Lin doctors said there is no reason for people to fear wearing latex gloves. Only if they develop an allergic reaction should they go for testing. However, since the use of latex gloves is expanding in the medical and industrial sector, awareness of the condition would be beneficial.

Radio waves can be affected by movement

WHY does radio reception fluctuate (especially, it seems to me, on FM), when doors are opened or closed or when people move around the room?

Esther, Jerusalem.
Prof. Shaul Yatziv of the Hebrew University's Rakah Institute of Physics replies:

The human body is a good conductor of electricity, and reception of radio and TV waves, which are electromagnetic, can be affected by people as well. FM works on shorter waves than AM, and thus the effect is more pronounced. The waves are produced in repeating lines, so a person's movement in a room can distort the sound or the picture.

Metal objects, which also conduct electricity, may also affect reception if they are moved about, but things made of wood will not, because this material is not a good conductor. TV reception would be affected if you have an indoor antenna, but not with a central antenna that brings signals via a wire from the roof.

Why do sweet potatoes disappear from the market in late winter, but regular potatoes can be bought any time?

Ephraim, Beersheba.

TELL ME WHY
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Dr. Ya'ir Aharoni of the department of post-harvest science of fresh produce at the Volcani Institute for Agriculture Research, answers:

Sweet potatoes grow only in winter, while regular potatoes grow in the winter, spring and fall, but not in the height of summer. Sweet potatoes are especially susceptible to spoilage when it is a rainy winter and they get wet in the field.

Both of them can be kept in cold storage for as long as six months. But because sweet potatoes are not very popular yet among Israelis (although they are very healthy), there isn't much demand for them. Since storage over many months is very expensive, it isn't worthwhile for growers and distributors to keep sweet potatoes in the warehouse, especially since they are less resistant to rot.

Regarding a question in the previous column on why road markings in Israel are usually faded, the commercial counselor for the Embassy of Spain in Tel Aviv, José García-Núñez, comments:

The deputy director of the maintenance department in the Public Works Department points out that Israel is looking for modern paints developed in other countries [that last longer than Israeli-made paints], and that when they find an import that is effective, a local company learns to produce similar products.

On this issue, let me clarify that Spanish manufacturers of road paint are all too glad to provide the Israeli public with state-of-the-art road paint that does not fade away. These products are used in Spain's road network and have resulted in road markings of excellent quality, which have in turn helped to reduce the number of accidents, even in adverse weather conditions. These paints are available, without any delay, for immediate import into Israel.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, c/o Jerusalem Post Science & Technology Reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax it to (02) 389527. Please include your first name and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

The juicy red fruit that 'made aliya'

NEW WORLDS
POST SCIENCE REPORTER

A tasty, juicy red fruit that "made aliya" from the jungles of Nicaragua, Peru and Columbia has adapted well to the Negev climate and is now being produced in commercial quantities. The credit goes to Prof. Yossi Mizrahi, Dr. Avinoam Nard and their colleagues at the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, who helped the red pitahaya plant to thrive here and have even managed to improve its original taste.

The first commercial yield, at some 40 fruits on each plant, is very expensive – costing anywhere from NIS 10 to NIS 40 per fruit. Because of the price, most of it has been made available to top hotels, restaurants and fancy private produce shops.

Samples of the fruit, which weigh 300 to 500 grams, were sent to Europe and enthusiastically received. Eventually, as the pitahaya reaches more growers, the price should come down.

The pitahaya has been eaten fresh for thousands of years by residents of Central America. There are six known botanical strains, but only some of them are really tasty. A few years ago, Mizrahi and friends brought specimens from 30 different plants, which belong to the cactus family and have scales of red, yellow, green or a rainbow of colors. They bred them and now claim to have produced the most beautiful pitahaya growing anywhere.

Mizrahi notes that even though the fruit comes from a tropical region, the cacti require only a seventh to a tenth of the amount of water needed by conventional plants and are thus well suited to growing conditions in the Negev.

R&D COUNCIL
BILL MOOTED

The responsibilities of the National Council for Research and Development should be set down in a law, and this important body should be more independent, says Science and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni. After consulting with council chairman Prof. Yitzhak Pannas and other academicians, Aloni recently announced the principles of a bill that would give the council official advisory status.

The council would plan and coordinate budgets for long-, medium- and short-term research projects and comprise 19 members (none of them state employees), to be appointed by the president of the state and approved by the government for five years.



Professor Yossi Mizrahi holds the tasty pitahaya.

The council will be directly responsible to the prime minister, rather than to the science minister, due to the interdisciplinary nature of its work. This will also make it more independent.

At present, the Science and the Arts Ministry promotes research dealing with infrastructure; the Ministry of Industry and Trade supports applied research; and the universities carry out basic research. Despite the upcoming elections, Aloni said she hopes the principles of the bill will soon be approved by the government, and that getting it through the Knesset will not take long.

ON YOUR LAP

A total of 14,000 laptop computers are sold in Israel annually, constituting 10 percent of all the computers marketed here despite their stiff price tags. According to the *Anashim U'Machshevim* computer weekly, these mobile, lightweight PCs already constitute a quarter of computer sales in the US.

At a recent seminar on interactive multimedia organized by the Giga company, a Motorola official complained that because of "red tape" in the Communications Ministry, Israel has not yet introduced a new technology that allows transmissions between computers without any telephone links. A number of local companies, including Binat/Breeze.com, are ready to offer such an advance, which uses infrared transmitters and local booster units.

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS

The advanced technology that allows pilots to begin their training on the ground while using flight simulators has been adapted to the home market. Instead of a flight ticket, buy some CD-ROMs and get a bird's eye view

of the world without budging from the chair in front of your computer.

Microsoft Home was the first major company to produce such software. Its *Flight Simulator* program is a top-flight product, and it offers so many options that the "Pilot Handbook" that comes with it is nearly 300 pages long.

Requiring a joystick along with 8 megabytes of internal memory and all the other modern paraphernalia, the program allows the user to select the type of aircraft, choose your weather and even "fly" upside down as you tour the world.

Bug Multisystem has produced its own CD-ROM with views of Israel (from Haifa in the north to Gedera in the south) as it looks from a plane. Called *Tiza 972* ("Flight 972"), it sells for NIS 149 at Bug and other software shops and can be used only by those who already have a legal copy of the Microsoft Home program.

The graphics are excellent, with beautiful views of Mt. Carmel, Haifa University, the refineries, Ben-Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv and hundreds of recognizable buildings in the area. Unfortunately, there is as yet no aerial view of Jerusalem and the south.

Cricket clicks on the Net

ONLINE
DANIEL BAUM

TO mark the cricket World Cup, which ends today, I took a spin round the Internet to see what was available on the subject. For once, I was pleasantly surprised.

The big daddy of all cricketing sites on the Internet is CricInfo (<http://www.cricinfo.org>) which contains just about any information on cricket that you could possibly want. It has players' records, a news archive, and scorecards going back into cricketing prehistory. You can learn that the first cricket match between two countries was played between the USA and Canada in 1844 in Manhattan, presumably in the days before the Americans were "contaminated by the barbarism of baseball" as the *Walden* cricket almanac puts it. For the curious, Canada won by 23 runs.

The CricInfo site is based in Oregon, which suggests that some Americans are still interested in the sport. It provided ball-by-ball coverage of the World Cup, updating the scorecards almost simultaneously with the action on TV. Another excellent cricket site, also from the US, is CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/SPORTS/C>

RICKET_CUP/index.html). CNN supplies news stories (mainly from Reuters) and pictures (mainly from AP) as well as players' statistics, partial team listings, and a very quick overview of the rules of cricket.

The main attraction of the CNN site is its clean, informative layout and good use of info-graphics. Indiaworld (<http://jade.india-world.com>) supplies a similar service to CricInfo, with the addition of articles by the likes of Sunil Gavaskar, Viv Richards, and Geoff Boycott. It also features cricket news and summaries of previous World Cups.

Newspaper sites are another good place to find information. The *Daily Telegraph* site (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>) is unquestionably the pick of the bunch. If you've never accessed the site before, you have to register, which is free. The quality of writing on the *Telegraph* site is far superior to that of the others, which rely on news agency reports.

The World Cup also gets a mention at the site belonging to American sports TV channel ESPN, which includes the usual wire-service offerings. You have to click "other sports" twice to get to it. The address is (<http://espn-net.sportszone.com/editors/other>) and scroll down a long way to somewhere between bowling and sled dog racing.

Another big Internet news service, Nando, provides some more Reuters stuff at (<http://www4.nando.net/newsroom/sports/oth/1995/oth/mor/fea/umor.html>) and (<http://www4.nando.net/newsroom/sports/oth/1995/oth/mor/fea/spx.html>) for stories and pictures respectively. Also check out its Hot off the Wires section for the latest news.

Correction: The Internet address for the Walla! site which I reviewed two weeks ago is (<http://www.walla.co.il>). Also, 411 used to be the American directory assistance number, and not as published previously.

Daniel Baum can be contacted at dbaum@netvision.net.il

REMEMBER THE SINGING RABBI...

Produced by the Shlomo Carlebach Foundation, this is a beautiful tribute to the memory of the "Singing Rabbi", released in time for his Yahrzeit.

The Sweetest Friends is a set of two audio cassettes. The Gift of Shabbos includes Elyahu HaNavi, David Melech, Yism'chu, Yibneh HaMikdash and more, and the Shuvah includes Tzur Yisroel, Od Yishama, Niggun and Shamor V'Zachor, among others.

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Facing up to Iran

THIS weekend, hundreds of Iranian exiles turned out in the rain for the funeral of a colleague at Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris. Zahra Radjavi, a member of the National Council of the Iranian Resistance, had been assassinated in Turkey last month, the latest victim of the long arm of Tehran terror. In Germany the same day, officials issued an arrest warrant for Iran's intelligence chief for the 1992 machine-gun assassination of four Kurds at a bar in Berlin. French President Jacques Chirac meanwhile continued to support the old European attitude of "constructive engagement," as the European Union prepared to despatch a troika to Tehran for another exercise in Euro-speak - "critical dialogue."

Chirac opposes a US-style isolation of Iran because "it only benefits the most extremist elements." Constructive engagement also benefits French industry, of course, though it has singularly failed to benefit just one individual European writer named Salman Rushdie. Chirac quoted an Arab proverb to justify his adherence to this discredited policy: "Never push a cat to the corner of a room - it's dangerous." Presumably allowing a hyena like Iran's "intelligence services" to roam freely and be constructively engaged in the world is tolerable.

If the French fig leaf is inadequate for its continued ties with Iran, the German one is transparent. The warrant for Iranian intelligence chief Ali Fallahian was issued with a great flourish of publicity by the Federal Prosecutor's Office, charging him with four counts of murder and one of attempted murder. This was clearly timed to demonstrate that "action" was indeed flowing forth from the Sharm e-Sheikh conference. But the ballyhoo surrounding the issue of the warrant, failed to explain why the same Fallahian met Chancellor Helmut Kohl's personal adviser on intelligence matters in Germany, in October 1993, amid press reports that Bonn was selling the Iranian intelligence service computers and imaging equipment.

There were also reports that since Fallahian's things were known to have murdered dissidents in Europe, police wanted to arrest him, but were blocked by the government granting the Iranian immunity as a state guest. If issuing a warrant at a time when it cannot be executed, rather than at a time when it can, is not a piece of fancy political footwork, it would be hard to define what is.

Also among the 15 European states suddenly becoming terrorism-aware, Italy too stands out as a shining example of commitment to the battle. Having first sent its military to confront the American Air Force in Sicily after it "hijacked" the Achille Lauro hijackers, Italy then let master terrorist Mohammed Abu Abbas slip out of the country. Then, in the very week of the Sharm conference, it was revealed that the Italian prison authorities had somehow "lost" the murderer of Leon Klinghoffer while he was on extended leave from jail. It seems somehow appropriate that Italy will be one member of the EU troika heading for Tehran to rap the mullahs' knuckles with constructive dialogue over their terrorist networks.

Despite the evidence provided by Israel and United States, the European Union states refused to single out Iran, as Prime Minister Shimon Peres did, at the Sharm conference. If these leaders cannot give a lead to others in more fragile circumstances than themselves, there is little hope of bringing Iran to heel. Since the conference, the innocuous Gulf state of Bahrain has been subjected to a suspiciously coincidental wave of unrest and terrorism that has killed eight people. It is no secret that all outbreaks of trouble in Bahrain since the Iranian revolution have been organized by Tehran's agents working with dissident Shi'ites. Since Bahrain is small, has a significant Shi'ite population and is the key financial center of the Gulf, it is the ideal wedge which Iran uses in its attempts to destabilize the Gulf.

And it is to the protection of these Gulf states that the European Union should be addressing its "constructive dialogue" - not to scrambling for crumbs from Iran's petro-dollar table. The emirates of the Gulf are traditional, historic allies of the West and now that they are moving to open up their relations with Israel, they have been placed on the front line of Iran's anger and subversion.

Critical dialogue, the latest invention of European Union policy, is supposed to mean that the 15-nation bloc will keep contacts with Tehran open while adopting a critical attitude. While the "criticism," delivered with European politeness over a glass of tea in Tehran, is unlikely to have the mullahs trembling, the critical part of the dialogue will be concerned with keeping business running as usual. Unfortunately, it is Europe's old friends in the Gulf states who will be left to do the trembling.

OPINION

THIS TIME WE MEAN BUSINESS!
TERRORISTS WILL BE SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON, AND THEY'LL STAY THERE FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS, OR UNTIL THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS...WHICHEVER COMES FIRST!



The two-tier approach

DAVID FORMAN

DURING the Gulf war, A.B. Yehoshua said that Diaspora Jews and Israeli Jews have the same history, but a different destiny. His comments came on the heels of the massive abandonment of Israel by Diaspora Jewry during the Gulf crisis.

Yehoshua's statement, if true then, is equally applicable now: for once again, in light of the recent wave of suicide bombings, Diaspora Jews are distancing themselves from Israel, even as they make their brave statements of solidarity.

Diaspora Jews, particularly those from America, see Israel as a place they must visit to strengthen their rather tenuous Jewish identity. But as soon as that identity is challenged in such a way as to endanger their physical well-being, this need for an infusion of Jewish self-identification is quickly shelved.

What really troubles those of us who live in Israel about the absence of our American Jewish brothers and sisters at this time is the clear distinction this absence draws between "us" and "them."

The guidelines followed by American Jews are the ones set down by the US State Department. If, as during the Gulf war, the State Department believes that it is unsafe for Americans to travel to Israel, it issues one of its advisories warning US citizens to stay away.

As soon as an American Jew who had planned to come to Israel or who was already in Israel opts to stay away or leave, he or she is making a definitive statement of identity.

Thus the answer to the age-old question "Are you a Jew first or an American first?" is ultimately resolved. Identification with the American State Department and not with the Jewish people determines these Jews' behavior.

I felt this separation more acutely than I would have ever expected when I was party to a discussion among some Jewish leaders who were here from abroad.

The tragic deaths of the two young American Jews Sara Duker and Matthew Eisenfeld in the first bus bombing in Jerusalem had brought home to them the danger they were exposed to. Most of them turned to me and other Israelis present, asking us to understand how frightened they felt after these two "fellow Americans" became victims.

At no point in their sorrowful lament did they allude to the many Israeli Jews who had also lost their lives in the bombing.

Some overseas students have benefited from private buses hired to shuttle American Jews back and forth to classes. Israeli Jewish students cannot ride those buses. Discriminatory?

And so the question that needs to be asked is: How do I and other Israelis feel when visiting American Jewish leaders like

ment each community has to the perpetuation of the Jewish people. When Israel sends a rescue team to Entebbe, flies Ethiopians out of war-torn Addis Ababa, or absorbs hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews, it does so for the sake of the Jewish people. And when Israel wages wars of survival or combats terrorism, it does so not only to maintain its own existence, but also to guarantee that the Jews of America can come here to replenish their Jewish batteries.

Yet every time Israel is in crisis, American Jews either pack their bags and leave, or don't pack their bags and don't come. Of course there are exceptions; but that is what they remain - exceptions. And so we in Israel feel abused, as our supposedly intimate relationship is reduced to a symbiotic one.

The definition of symbiosis is the living together of two dissimilar but closely bound organisms, especially when the association is beneficial. In short: Come to Israel for a necessary injection of Jewish identity - but only when it is beneficial and safe to do so.

This two-tiered approach to Jewish life will no longer do. Jewish life is, or you're out. Jewish life every time you're scared. We Israelis don't do it, and neither should American Jews - not as long as they're using us to spruce up their Judaism.

And as for those Jewish leaders with whom I spoke, I'd like to tell them that I don't want to be exploited any more. I don't want crocodile tears. I don't want distinctions made between "you" and "me."

I understand fear. I too am afraid. But don't expect me to suspend judgment should you leave Israel now.

No one is asking you to make aliyah or be Zionists. But if you can't join the Jewish people during perilous times, then you can't be leaders of the Jewish people. In fact, you'll not equal the leadership quality of any Israeli who rides the No. 18 bus in Jerusalem tomorrow, or the next day, or the day after that.

By your attitude you belittle our common history, a history laden with dangers. Sadly, as a result, you forfeit any common destiny.

The writer is spokesman for Rabbis for Human Rights.

American Jews:
Either you're in or
you're out. You can't
step out of Jewish
life every time you
get scared

Footling the bill

JAY BAILEY

I voted for Clinton. I like the guy and I think he's doing a great job under the circumstances, both domestically and internationally. Thursday morning I wished he had been doing the domestic stuff. At home.

Oh, that I could get my hands on the statistics. I'd love to be able to calculate the magnitude of the plague that visits our city along with every foreign dignitary.

Let's take Bill's recent visit. If I had the data, I'd tally up the number of drivers who sat in stand-still traffic for two hours or more Thursday morning in Jerusalem, if they were unlucky enough to get stuck with no escape route. (Personally, I managed two illegal U-turns and jumped a landscaped divider over the course of the morning.) I'd multiply these vehicularly-challenged thousands by the number of hours they remained stagnant, and finally by a shekel-per-hour figure representing the lost income to them and/or their employers.

Of course we'd supplement this figure with the cost of the thousands of liters of gas wasted by vehicles like mine, forced to drive around the circumference of the city in order to finally sneak in to work.

This calculation would only yield the toll on private citizens. It wouldn't include the police, whose overtime hours and blood pressure skyrocketed as they waved the city to a halt, bringing a barrage of curses and complaints from frustrated drivers down on their heads.

IT IS common knowledge that Jerusalem's daily traffic problems are the result of the urbanization of a city never intended for the ever-increasing volume of cars. The roads aren't wide enough, there aren't enough city entrances, exits, or parking spaces, and there certainly aren't enough boulevards to accommodate our illustrious foreign guests. As a result, every little alley that borders on the presidential route has to be barricaded lest we wander onto it.

What to do? First of all, why not a helicopter? A super-armored aircraft piloted by one of our all-star air force combat flyboys should do it. It wouldn't have all the fanfare of escorted limousines with those cute little flags, but if

they told us when and where, we'd happily wave banners and cheer as he passed overhead.

Next, the president or dignitary could be good enough to stay in one place. Every time he moves around, the city pauses. And since not one phase of Bill's Jerusalem drive started on time, roads were closed for much longer than expected.

For those half-hour "discussions" with mayors and other mandatory political excursions I have a suggestion: Think e-mail. Drop a postcard. Send off a quick fax.

Last, I cannot comprehend why roads have to be cleared for so long. It's not as if they're rolling out a giant red carpet or lining the roads with flowers.

Ambulances and police cars have this neat device which, with a blast of light and sound, effectively clears the road for them. If a dozen security vehicles preceded the honor procession by a few blocks, I'll bet they'd find cars moving out of the way.

And I can't accept that security requires the complete flushing out of our thoroughfares; a terrorist who obviously couldn't escape in any event could just as easily toss a grenade or launch a rocket from the sidewalk.

I myself was able to park my car near the Monastery of the Cross, standing near a clump of bushes as the Clinton entourage zoomed by. Unless they teargas the area, there's no way to assure that miles of Jerusalem's streets will be "sterile."

It's not that I'm any smarter than the security forces that run the show. It's just that I think priorities have been distorted, ignoring the citizen - actually thousands of them sitting silently in their cars, wasting gas, time, and money.

I cannot imagine the president was delighted to be driven down a barren, lifeless street, his "hosts" waiting angrily for him to pass. How could he get a glimpse of the "Shalom, Haver" bumper stickers he inspired?

Alas, he will never hear from the thousands of Jerusalemites whose morning was ruined by his zigzagging around our home.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PERNICIOUS BELIEF

Sir, - As an American deeply concerned with the terror now stalking Israeli streets, I found myself very uncomfortable with the feeble condolence message of my president to Israel on March 4.

President Clinton, noting the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv suicide bomb attacks of recent days, said he found it "truly ironic" that the same "forces" from within his own people that brought down Yitzhak Rabin and are now killing Israelis "have one clear thing in common - they both want to end the peace process. They live for division and conflict... America must send a strong message; if Israel fights for peace, we will stand with you."

Israel, my message to you is extremely different. For I sense that your faith in God has just been slandered and Clinton's commitment to you drawn into question all in one breath, whether you know it or not. It is abhorrent to hear a reading of recent events on such a plane of moral equivalency. Somehow, this peace process has the moral compass of the whole world going haywire.

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to a man who renounces terrorism and then praises human kamikazes as national, religious heroes. And now, an American president equates the actions of a lone, crazed stalker (Yigal Amir) with the parade of hundreds of Moslem youth sworn to a suicide pact in order to take Jewish lives. I cannot accept that in the months since the

Rabin assassination there remain "forces" who "live for division and conflict." Rather, Israelis have acted soberly and responsibly, even as now every street corner becomes potential Hamas killing ground.

The official mantra routinely broadcast in reaction to such bombings ("These are attacks against the peace process") has worn thin and comforts no one. My conclusion is that but for the peace process and its attendant restraints on Israel, most of these killings would not be taking place. Thus the peace process itself provides cover for the indiscriminate killing of Jews.

As I had the privilege of stating in the recently adopted Proclamation of the Third Christian Zionist Congress: "We condemn that radical view now ascendant within Islam which, by its own tenets, advocates violence and jihad (holy war) as a legitimate means to spread the Islamic faith and advance the Islamic world view. We find the most pernicious expression of such radical views is the belief that Moslems who sacrifice their very lives to kill a Jew receive the reward of instant entry to Paradise. The practice of such beliefs poses an increasingly unacceptable peril to Israel and a grave threat to both Moslem and non-Moslem peoples throughout the world. These threats must be opposed and challenged by all."

PROPHETIC WORDS

Sir, - As I hear my moderate friends, enraged by what has happened, speak of "transfer" and "separation," I recall the words on who spoke of "what will happen."

Seventeen years ago, I sat in the dairy cafeteria of Bar-Ilan University listening to a speaker. He could not address us in the Student Union, as he was banned by the university. He described a time when a new Arab would arise, an Arab who had not experienced the devastating defeat of 1967. Arab youth who would be bold and brazen. I remember the speaker's exact words: "Jewish blood will flow in the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem." He was denounced by all good Jews. "Radical," "extremist," "prophet of doom" were the kinder insults thrown at him.

That speaker was of course the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, and like Ze'ev Jabotinsky before him, his warnings were sadly ignored. Now we are paying the price.

(P.S. The Israeli government has fulfilled the mitzvah of Purim. They are unable to distinguish between Mordechai the Righteous (Rabbi Levinger who is placed behind bars) and Haman the Wicked (Arafat, who is a welcome guest in the Rabin home).)

MOSHE D. KATZ
Ma'aleh Adumim.

MILITARY RANK

Sir, - On the March 1 Kol Israel newsreel, at 7:15 a.m., Minister of Interior General Ehud Barak stated, in answer to Meir Elstein's question on the subject of the closed gap between Peres and Netanyahu in the opinion polls: "The public knows that the answer to terror is not quite the return of Rafal, Arik and Reserve Captain Netanyahu to the Government Kirya. This is not exactly the solution to the terror."

Barak's attempt to belittle Binayamin Netanyahu by referring to his "lowly" military rank is ugly. Is army rank the only criterion and qualification for electing prime ministers, Mr. Barak? What, pray, were the military ranks of David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol and Shimon Peres? Moreover, when citing Mr. Netanyahu's rank, Barak chose to overlook the fact that the other two gentlemen he mentioned, Rafal and Arik, were generals!

JAY BENSON
Tel Aviv.

DAVID R. PARSONS
Jerusalem.

THE TEMPLE MENORA

Sir, - With regard to the letter of Rabbi Chaim Kaufman about the purported presence of the menorah from the Temple in the Vatican (February 1), it should be pointed out that there is some question as to whether this is, in fact, the real one. The "Jewish" descriptions have mentioned a tripod rather than a flat base as is depicted on the Roman Arch of Titus. Furthermore, in his Wars of the Jews, Josephus states that the candelabra that was paraded in Rome at Titus's triumph was different than the one he (and/or the Jews) specifically used in Jerusalem.

I would like to believe, rather, that the real menorah still remains hidden in the subterranean channels that existed under the Temple.

LOUIS B. KRAMER
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

HISTORY

Sir, - When president Reagan visited Bitburg Cemetery in Germany, where SS storm-troopers are buried, the director of communications at the White House was - surprise! - Patrick Buchanan. (In fact, Nancy Reagan raised the only opposing voice, for which she deserves credit, and our everlasting gratitude.)

At that time, Buchanan coined the term Holocaust Survivor Syndrome, and he said that no Jews died at Treblinka.

Many advisers in the White House and the State Department are openly antisemitic. This should cause concern to American Jewish leaders. They should encourage the youth to make aliyah to Israel (unlike the leaders of European Jewry in the 1930s, who, sadly, did the opposite).

MINA BENJAMIN
Tel Aviv.



A young boy gingerly touches an arm-wrestling machine at a video parlor in Hong Kong. During the previous two weeks, five teenagers broke their arms challenging the machine. (AP)

POSTSCRIPT

HOW COLD does it get on Canada's Prairies? Ask Pepper the dog. He got his tongue stuck to an electric frying pan.

"If you ever got your tongue stuck to a piece of metal, you can relate to it," said Evaline Sanders, whose son owns Pepper.

The dog often helps himself to food set out in an old pan. There lies the problem - when it's hovering around minus 40 Celsius.

Pepper was spotted running home with the pan stuck to his tongue.

"Do you know how heavy a pan is?" asked Sanders. "My sons followed the dog with a bottle of warm water and caught it and freed the dog from the pan. I would imagine the dog still has a sore tongue."

Pepper still hasn't learned the error of his ways, Sanders said.

"I understand he went back the next day looking for food."

مكتبة الانجیل

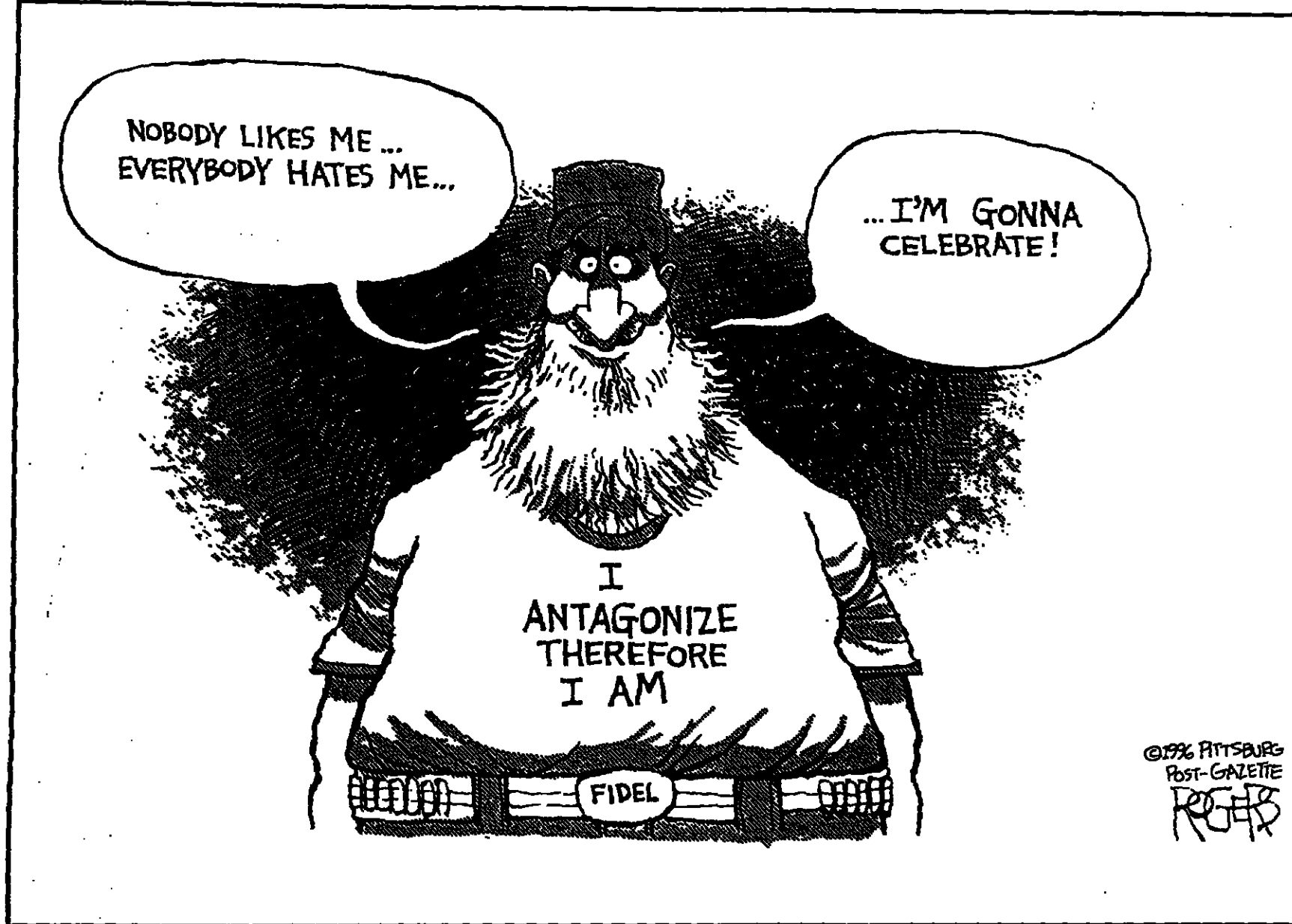
1995 The Jerusalem Post
Footling the bill
JAY BAILEY

THE JERUSALEM POST

A review of commentary and humor from American Press Syndicates

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, March 17, 1996



Cuba's spin

Improving the image of the country and its leader

BY CHARLES LANE

Since 1981, when he left his job as chief of the United States interests section in Havana, Wayne Smith has been the dean of Fidel Castro's American apologists. In the latest Foreign Affairs, Smith once again puts the most benign possible spin on the Caribbean country, depicting Cuba as a nation marching gradually to "social democracy," under the guidance of none other than Fidel Castro. Castro's regime is not a one-man dictatorship, as it may appear, rather, like the Franco regime in Spain, the Fidel period is a necessary prelude to the greater freedom for which Cuba is still not quite ready.

Refutation of this interesting thesis was not long in coming. A few days after Smith's piece appeared, Cuban police rounded up the leaders of Concilio Cubano, a pro-democracy organization, and Cuban jets shot down two Cuban-American planes. Even Smith was at a loss to rationalize Castro's behavior. "It's silly," he told The New York Times. "These groups don't provide any threat, and Cuba could improve its image internationally by taking it easy on them."

In conventional political terms, Castro's actions are indeed "counter-productive." He may well have cost himself a crucial trade deal with the European Union, and a year-long thaw with the U.S. is now over. The Clinton administration reacted to his shootdown of the unarmed planes by backing the Helms-Burton bill tightening the U.S. trade embargo. Of course, Fidel anticipated this, which suggests he conceives of his political interests a bit differently from the way Smith imagines. Castro is not interested in better relations with Washington or a healthy economy for his people. He wants to stay in power forever. Given his government's lack of legitimacy and the widespread hardship on the island, he feels threatened by any stirring of organized opposition. As for his "international image," with the help of apologists abroad, he has always managed to blame America first.

The failure of Wayne Smith to grasp these basic truths about Castro is, alas, symptomatic of a broader failure of the American liberal imagination when it comes to Castro. Every other Communist dictator in history may have run his country into the ground and was hated, albeit through clenched teeth, by his people. But for some reason, Fidel alone is the popular, charismatic leader of a "revo-

lution" built on free health and education. The welfare states of Sweden and France are in fiscal straits. But sugar-producing Cuba will someday consolidate a "social democracy."

The latest liberal illusion concerning Cuba is the liberating power of capitalism. Lift the embargo and democracy will trickle in along with Big Macs and MTV. This is ironic. In the '60s and '70s, it was conservatives who argued that economic reform and growth would have to precede an inevitably long, slow change to democratic rule in Latin countries ruled by right-wing dictators. Meantime, they argued, "constructive engagement" was the most effective U.S. policy. For their part, liberals called U.S. multinationals accomplices to right-wing rule, who brought only an exploitative brand of free enterprise, along with money and political legitimacy for the dictators.

Now the roles have reversed. Miami Cubans cry that foreign business is shoring up Castro. And in January, Joe Moakley, the Democratic congressman whose legislation cutting off aid to El Salvador helped bring that country's army to heel, escorted executives from Massachusetts to Havana for a tour of post-embargo opportunities.

The logic of "constructive engagement" is not inherently wrong, either in Pinochet's Chile or in Cuba today. Rather, the latest crisis proves that Castro is in position to head off whatever democratizing effects trade, investment and "contact" may have. The European and Canadian investment that Castro has allowed, coupled with his grudging decision to allow peasant markets and free use of the dollar, did, indeed, begin to undermine his system of political control. At the same time, it fortified his regime with money. Long before the former effect could outstrip the latter, Castro provoked the U.S. to tighten the embargo.

Yes, Cuban exiles in Miami are Fidel's perfect foils. Yes, the Helms-Burton bill will create all sorts of legal and diplomatic headaches for America itself. And yes, if we were starting Cuba policy from scratch today, we probably wouldn't impose an embargo. But the embargo remains our only leverage, and our only symbolic protest of Castro's dictatorship. The real reason that a strategy of engagement can't democratize Cuba is that Fidel will never allow it.

Castro also knows that the endless debate over U.S.-Cuban "relations" helps obscure the only question about Cuba that really matters. Why on earth does Castro refuse to hold a free

national election? The constructive engagers tend to get flustered when the question is posed this starkly. Unless you are prepared to argue either (a) that there already is enough political freedom in Cuba or (b) that "U.S. hostility" somehow necessitates one-man rule, there really is no answer.

In Smith's case, the apologia for Castro is the same as that once offered by conservatives for Pinochet and Somoza: only he can guarantee order. "Castro's departure or ouster is unlikely to occur soon, and it is probably undesirable," Smith writes in Foreign Affairs. "He is the only political figure with the authority to order reforms and make them stick, and he is the only one who can prevent the various political factions from plunging the country into a bloodbath."

Apres Fidel, le deluge. But where is the evidence that Fidel's "reforms" are either irreversible or well-conceived? And how could "factions" whom Smith describes as small and insignificant trigger a bloodbath? Then Smith asks: "Elections are well and good, but who would run against (Castro)?" Smith should look in the political prisons. "The Cuban people see no one in the wings," he writes, "and thus their understandable reaction is to stick with Castro." — Smith knows this from "hundreds of interviews and conversations with Cubans." Most of the people on the island I've talked to are sick of their country's plight and blame it on the man in charge. Smith seems not to realize that people in unfree societies conceal their real opinions from outsiders they perceive as friendly to the authorities. Pollsters in Nicaragua found a huge Sandinista majority until the day before Violeta Chamorro won the 1990 election.

But there has never been a free election, or even a legitimate opinion poll, in Cuba, so neither Smith nor I can really be sure. Perhaps if U.S. policy avoided either tightening or relaxing the embargo in favor of a simple, strong diplomatic campaign for free elections — now — we would someday get to find out who's right. If Fidel loses, the drafting of a truthful history of his misrule can at last begin, with a chapter reserved for the supporting role played by foreign intellectuals.

Charles Lane is a senior editor of The New Republic, in which this article first appeared.

Dole grasps new political realities

BY ROBERT NOVAK

How did Sen. Bob Dole, at death's door two weeks earlier and still in bad shape a week before, win eight out of eight Junior primary elections and all but clinch his nomination for president?

The question is especially tantalizing because Dole during those crucial two weeks did not improve as a campaigner. He showed flashes of bad temper, could not cope with the issue of abortion and effectively wrote off tax reform. His statement in New York last week that Steve Forbes' flat tax would prevent a balanced budget led supply-sider Jack Kemp to make his unexpected endorsement of Forbes when all other Republicans were madly rushing to board the departing Dole bandwagon.

DOLE, INC.

The answer to Dole's recovery was supplied to me by one adviser: "Dole Inc." That is the entire Republican Party, plus allied corporate moguls, Washington lawyers and lobbyists, uniting in righteous indignation to repel outsiders — and reform. The Grand Old Party, which like the British Tories has many of the characteristics of a private club, controlled its own nomination. Whether Dole Inc. can effectively challenge President Clinton is another matter.

Mobilizing a non-reform party against Clinton now becomes the Republican task.

The front-loading of primaries saved Dole. His first impressive win, in South Carolina last week, mobilized Dole Inc. for the wholesale politics. Heavy New Hampshire voting after intensive campaigning contrasted with this week's light turnout after virtually no campaigning at all. Dole comes over strongest when not forced into individual combat with his foes — as he will be with Clinton.

Changes made by Dole after New Hampshire Feb. 20 are more apparent than real. Longtime counselor William Lacey was bounced as chief strategist, according to campaign sources, because he emphasized "leadership" and "experience" in a content-free candidacy. But at his victory celebration, the senator intuitively returned to that theme: "We've found the leader to bring the Republican Party together."

Although Dole's tendency to lash out at critics was effectively contained, there were lapses. He could not stop himself from snapping at a valuable ally, the Christian Coalition's Ralph Reed, for publicly urging him not to call Pat Buchanan an extremist. He could not stop himself from venting his rage over Forbes' self-financed campaign. By and large, however, Dole relied on television, radio and telephone calls to pummel first Forbes and then Buchanan.

LIMITATIONS

Candidate Dole's limitations were most obvious in dealing with abortion. Despite 25 years of experience, he could not explain in the South Carolina debate exactly where he stands.

That was no fluke, as shown by his explanation three days later on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley." Asked why he now supports abortion in the case of rape and incest if he feels the fetus is a life, he replied: "That's true. But I think there are — as true as that may be, there are still political realities, and I think Henry Hyde has an exemplary record when it comes to abortion. It's the so-called Hyde amendment. I think in my early days I supported only the exception of the mother. But I think from the political standpoint some people in the right-to-life movement and others don't agree with the exceptions."

Dole seems equally unaware of what he is saying about tax reform. He had been advised not to attack the flat tax — only the Forbes version. But in New York last week, Dole added state income taxes — along with home mortgages and charitable contributions — as an acceptable deduction in any reform. Surely, the former chairman of the Senate Finance Committee knows that is a stake through the heart of a flat tax.

Herein lie the limitations of Dole Inc. The professional politicians and their lobbyist auxiliaries would like abortion to go away and are allergic to radical revision of the Internal Revenue Code. Mobilizing a non-reform party against Clinton now becomes the Republican task.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

Texas sets the norm for U.S.

hospitals and doctors? Maybe that's not as valuable as a child spending less than two hours with an abusive parent."

Not exactly a glorious future, having to choose between stopping disease and stopping child abuse. And Williamson is honest enough to concede this. He knows that devolution is an imperfect system, that it will work better in small communities than in cities, that some good ideas, like reducing the high-school dropout rate in poor areas, will fall to the bottom of the state to-do list. But his response is an almost mystical faith in the market and its capacity to reflect the right balance between some people's needs and other people's wallets. "The market always wins. There is no instance in history where it did not correct itself."

The same belief comes through when he describes how school districts might help assess the skills of welfare recipients: the state could pay them \$100 a head to evaluate welfare mothers so they could find appropriate work placement. Aren't public schools already stretched to the limit? "An amazing thing will happen. When there's a financial incentive, strained resources are suddenly not so strained. See, now there's no incentive in government to find a way."

Previously, states had to spend a specified minimum of their own money to attract matching federal dollars. In its current welfare reform blueprint, Congress allows states to put up as little as 75 percent of that previous minimum without losing federal funds. In states like Texas, the remaining 25 percent probably won't go back to the poor. The most likely recipient will be prisons. After an eight-year, \$2 billion, debt-financed building binge Texas has one of the biggest prison systems in the world; and the electorate isn't complaining. Texas could avoid a prisons versus the poor showdown by increasing revenue, of course, but don't count on it.

"No one felt good about it, but we didn't have \$150 million. We ended up making tough decisions," says state representative Garnet Coleman about last year's decision to phase out a program that provided in-home care to frail and elderly people. The federal government wiped out funding, despite the fact that in-home care costs the government less than nursing homes, which are often

If there aren't real cuts, there will be nasty trade-offs. In the 1995 session, lawmakers wanted to add 500,000 adults to the state's Medicaid rolls, by covering people with an income of 75 percent of the poverty level. Governor Bush said no, couldn't afford it, and whacked the eligibility cutoff to 45 percent of the poverty level. This eliminated 250,000 people from the rolls. Still, in a soon-to-be-common act of generational balancing, some finagling did allow 600,000 more children to receive Medicaid.

Even programs that are conservative darlings are likely to suffer. Right now, an average of 10 percent of AFDC recipients in each state are in a job program. In Texas, the rate is almost twice that. Jobs programs are expensive — people have to be trained and their children cared for. The federal government isn't likely to provide the necessary funds. But, if the number of welfare recipients with jobs or in training doesn't triple in six years the state will lose an additional \$25 million, the Congress-imposed, market-like penalty for failure to do even better.

In Texas, the faith that block grants and devolution will unleash a raging inventiveness and foster local Solomons who make wise, fair choices requires a giant leap. Less money has meant some more creativity, more consolidation, smarter budgeting. But it's also meant fewer services, often for poor adults or frail and elderly people, who have nowhere else to turn. While they continue on their campaign march through Texas, the Republican candidates might do well to look around them. What they see — more people needing help and just not getting it — is the future they want to bring to the rest of the country.

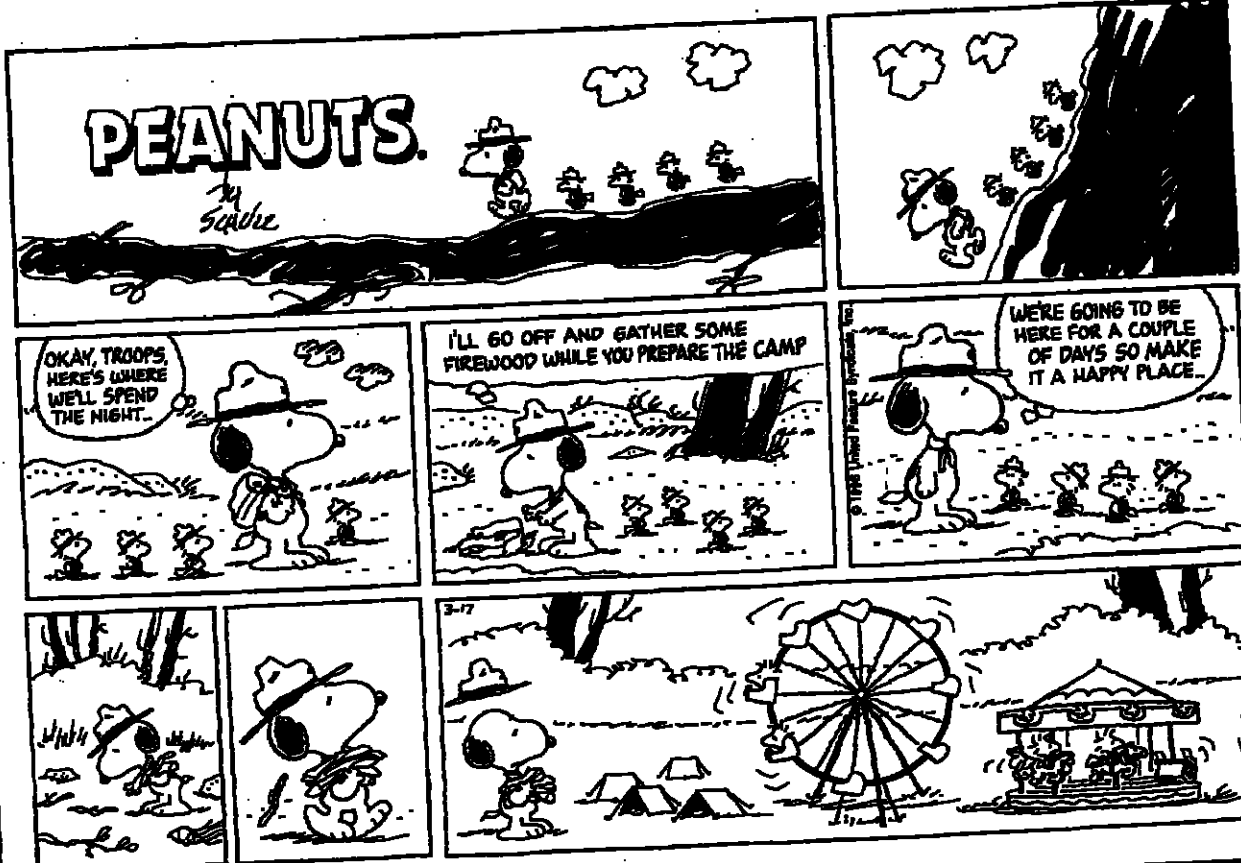
Jennifer Bradley is an assistant editor of The New Republic.

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SUNDAY COMICS

G. B. TRUDEAU



Calvin and Hobbes



TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ## ACROSS

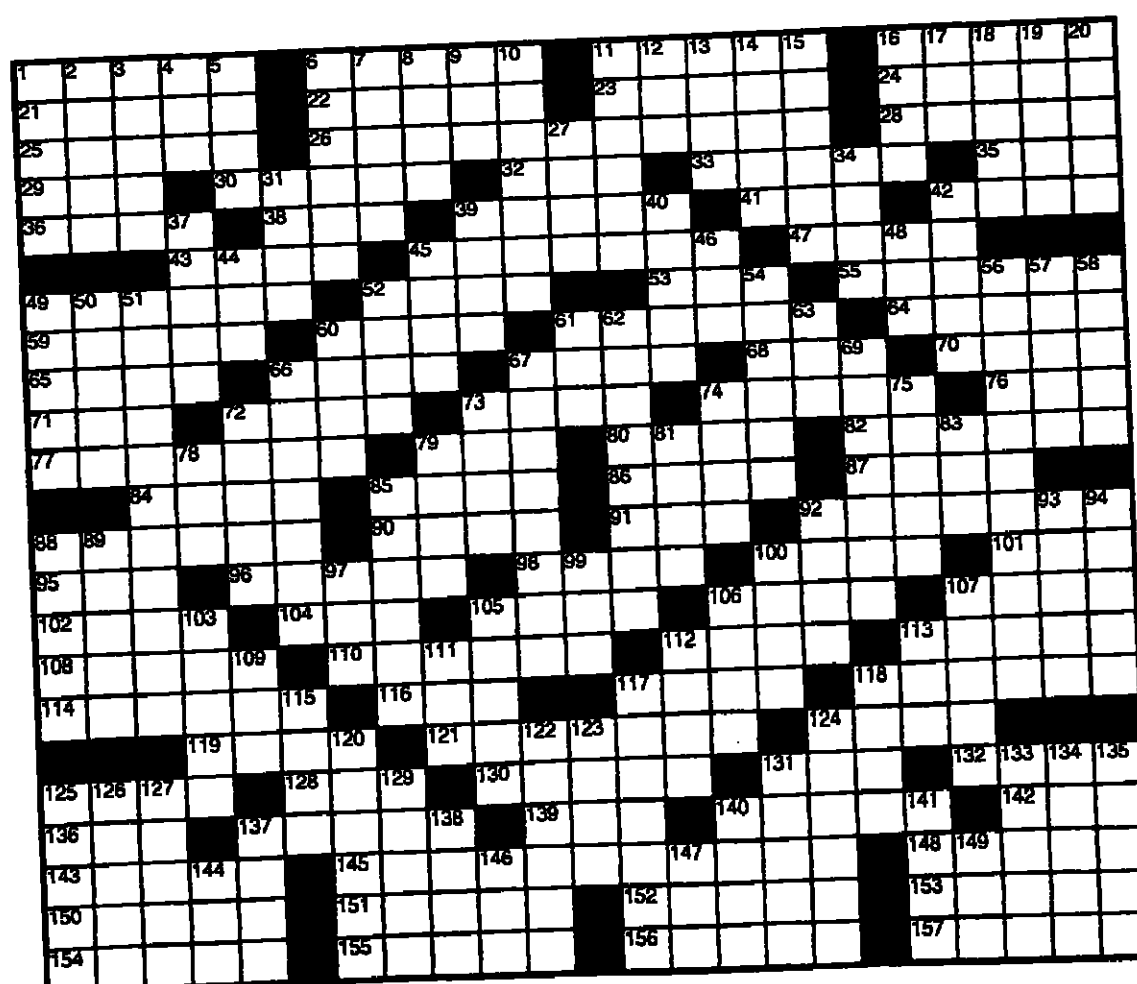
- ACROSS
- 1 He hit 61 in '81
 - 6 ... of Gorbachev
 - 11 Greek island
 - 16 Low to the ground
 - 21 Florida city
 - 22 Disease
 - 23 Vols into cities
 - 24 Handbag
 - 25 African country
 - 26 Canoe on Nevada and area
 - 28 Hood or Witeams
 - 29 Greek letter
 - 30 Milk train
 - 32 "___ Miserables"
 - 33 Chicago poetess
 - 35 Fruity drink
 - 36 Spanish artist
 - 38 Obese
 - 39 Long-legged bird
 - 41 Picnic or cashew
 - 42 Kind of nut
 - 43 Mt. of etc.
 - 45 W-faced liner
 - 47 Without
 - 49 ___-fideles
 - 52 Walking aid
 - 53 ___
 - 54 Foursome
 - 59 Attempted
 - 60 Civil wrong
 - 61 Art of strategy
 - 64 As ___ equality
 - 65 French river
 - 66 Canadian tribe
 - 68 Quoted
 - 69 Operetta
 - 70 Stage award
 - 71 Cal. abbr.
 - 72 Pacesetter
 - 73 ___
 - 74 Article
 - 75 Tavern
 - 77 Man or monkey
 - 79 Glass container
 - 80 Roman god
 - 81 Red shepherd
 - 84 Roof overhang
 - 85 Pasta type

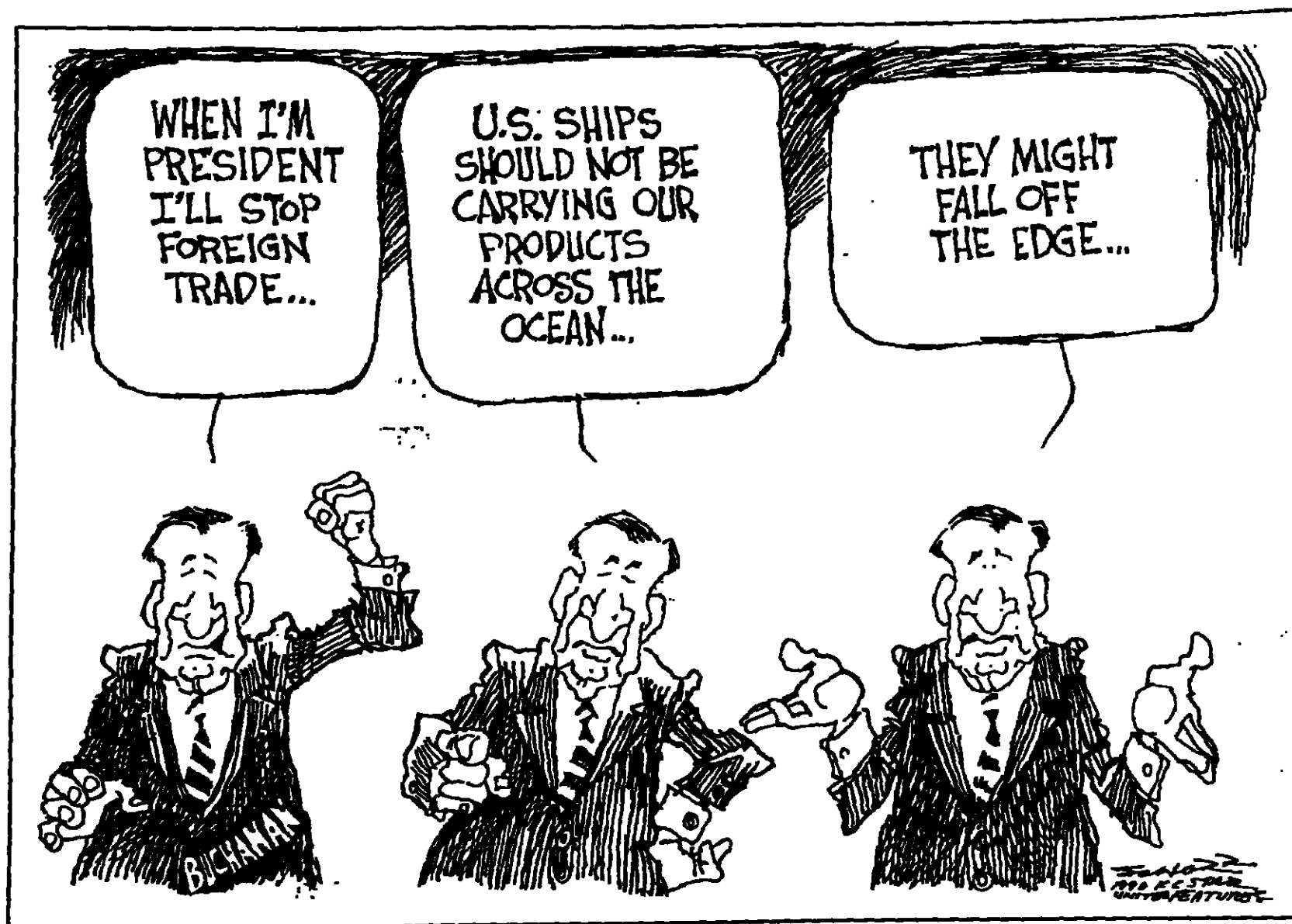
- DOWN**

- DOWN**
- 1 Biblical leader
 - 2 Critical
 - 3 Dedication device
 - 4 Dock union
 - 5 Hourglass contents
 - 6 Hymn of praise
 - 7 Wistful
 - 8 'Now' — me down to sleep
 - 9 Drunkard
 - 10 Scold one
 - 11 Add spices
 - 12 Total
 - 13 Blend
 - 14 Large expense
 - 15 Stencil marks
 - 16 Utile a gymnast
 - 17 Ould pro
 - 18 Of a city
 - 19 Addressing the audience only
 - 20 Dictate
 - 27 Actress' name
 - 31 From a distance
 - 34 Cup of
 - 37 Cantorial dwelling
 - 39 Suggestion
 - 40 Sherry's daughter
 - 42 Houston player
 - 44 Danon or Turner
 - 45 Spine weed
 - 46 Seclude
 - 48 Teachers' org.
 - 49 Type of jazz dance
 - 50 Mistake
 - 51 'The Hair' regular
 - 52 'The Hair' many devotees
 - 54 Harsh speech
 - 56 Give a routine approval
 - 57 Assumed identity
 - 59 Playwright mentor
 - 60 Accurate
 - 61 Spanish unit
 - 62 Lawyer
 - 63 Goodbye's nickname
 - 66 Suffering fool
 - 67 Name the party

- 69 Tv

- 89 Type of family
- 92 Tennis pro Todd
- 93 Roman statesman
- 94 Money drawer
- 95 Cut of hair
- 97 Atlas page
- 98 Hex
- 81 Coconuts
- 85 Always, to a poet
- 85 Panics
- 89 Leeward
- 92 Feet of a earling
- 93 Eagle's nest
- 94 Midwest country
- 97 Moon vehicle
- 98 Car, 400 p.t.
- 100 Cooled
- 103 Large-eyed mammal
- 105 Restaurant
- 106 Ambulation
- 107 Carmel on
- 108 Mesh fabric
- 111 ——— Alamos, N.M.
- 112 Hop
- 113 December
- 115 Story
- 117 Plug
- 118 Corn bread
- 120 Greta's sibling
- 122 Sister's husband
- 123 Asian nurse
- 124 Grand —
- 125 The Devil
- 126 License
- 127 Sister's husband
- 129 Silky one
- 131 Montana city
- 134 Starvane part
- 134 Sphere of conflict
- 135 Oryzopsis prince
- 137 "Fasb"?
- 138 Fairwell, to a Londoner
- 140 Snare
- 141 Paper quality
- 144 Ninja before
- 146 Hanging in law
- 147 "Exodus" here
- 149 In the past





Negative political ads draw voters to polls

BY STEPHEN GLASS

One thing Bob Dole knows how to do: blame people. After his poor showing in New Hampshire and Delaware, he lambasted rosy internal polls and his campaign's reliance on negative ads. So he fired his chief pollsters, Bill McInturff and Neil Newhouse, and pushed out deputy campaign chairman William Lacy. He was determined, he implied, to turn positive and avoid polling errors in the future. Strange. The polls McInturff and Newhouse had provided — 26 percent in New Hampshire (one point off) and 27 percent in Delaware (dead-on) — were models of professional accuracy. Stranger still, the replacements Dole has hired are far more negative than their predecessors. In fact, the new guys — Tony Fabrizio, Fred Steeper and Don Sipple — are widely acknowledged by political professionals to be the hardest and nastiest right-wing operatives around.

STRATEGY

What the appointments suggest is that the key to Dole's post-Georgia campaign won't be a "new Bob Dole," or a fight for the "heart and soul" of the Republican Party, but a brutal lunge for the rhetoric and constituency of the Buchananites. Dole's new chief pollster, Fabrizio, worked for Buchanan in 1992. Dole's new adviser Fred Steeper has argued that isolationism is the only foreign policy that can win elections. And Dole's new chief strategist, Don Sipple, is arguably the GOP's meanest attack-wizard.

Fabrizio is probably the best known of the three. After studying under New York GOP pollster Al Finkelstein, he formed his own ultra-conservative firm, whose clients included the Christian Coalition and — to the annoyance of the Republican Party — firebrands who challenged moderate GOP incumbents.

Fabrizio's supplanting of McInturff and Newhouse was the latest twist in a long rivalry. In 1992, Fabrizio and three other pollsters challenged McInturff and Newhouse's post-election survey, which warned that Bush lost because many voters viewed the GOP as narrow-minded. Fabrizio argued, in contrast, that the Republicans had gotten away from their conservative roots and in future elections needed to press hard on character issues. One example of what Bush should have done, Fabrizio argued in Harper's magazine, was run a watch size of

numbers 1-900-gennifer line. When callers dialed, Fabrizio suggested, they could "press 1 to hear Clinton talking to Gennifer Flowers; press 2 to hear Clinton slip-slop on the draft...."

Sound distasteful? Not to Fabrizio, who in 1988 dreamed up the famous Willie Horton ad and shielded the Bush campaign by producing it through an independent group called Americans for Bush. While Dole has said he is pulling all his own attack ads, he has revealingly refused to say he'll stop independent ads on his behalf.

Dole claims that negative ads have debased this spring's GOP primaries. But others disagree. 'Negative ads are the most informative ads we see on TV,' said a political strategist at a 1992 training seminar.

Dole claims that negative ads have debased this spring's GOP primaries, but Fabrizio disagrees. "Negative ads are the most informative ads we see on TV," he told political strategists at a 1992 training seminar. His most fervent co-believer is Dole's new media strategist, Don Sipple, also a master of the Horton genre.

In a crime spot for Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, Sipple used grainy images and an ominous voice-over: "Crime in Illinois: more random, more violent. Criminals younger and younger." In an ad for Governor Pete Wilson, illegal immigrants were shown sprinting across the border while Wagnerian music played. Sipple's philosophy is that negative ads draw a candidate's constituency to the polls. "Running on your record doesn't get you very far," he told The Dallas Morning News shortly after the 1994 election. "People don't think the past is particularly relevant. Their concern is about the future." So much for the candidate of experience.

POLICY

The third new Dole hire, Fred Steeper, will advise the campaign on policy. If Fabrizio

and Sipple are likely to intensify the negativity, Steeper will try to coopt Buchananism. On affirmative action, Steeper says candidates should tap into voter anger about quotas. On foreign policy he says the public favors an America-first attitude. On free trade, Steeper told The Christian Science Monitor in 1991, candidates can't win on any platform except protectionism: "There is no political base for free trade. Only college-educated people understand the benefits." And Steeper specializes in the electoral advantages of scapegoating homosexuals. He makes a distinction between race-baiting appeals and gay-baiting ones: "Deep down, even those against rights for blacks believed the discrimination was wrong, and most felt guilty about it," he told The Washington Post. "For the 45 percent opposed to the homosexual lifestyle, deep down they think they are morally right."

So much for a kinder, gentler Bob Dole. More likely is a fall strategy that goes full-throttle after the president's character. Steeper and Sipple both described Bush's failure to go after Clinton's character as a central weakness in his campaign. "They have to throw darts at one bull's eye," Sipple explained in The New York Times just weeks before the election. "It has to be Clinton's credibility. I would deal with it very explicitly. Just frame it there at the top of the commercial: How much can we really trust Bill Clinton?" But, with friends like these, how much can we really trust Bob Dole?

Stephen Glass is a reporter for The New Republic.

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How widespread is police 'testilying'?

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

One of the most experienced police experts in the United States has now joined the debate over police testilying. Joseph McNamara — the former police chief of San Jose and Kansas City, who had previously worked as a beat cop in New York for many years — recently said that he had "come to believe that hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers commit felony perjury every year testifying about drug arrests." If you add to that the testifiers in non-drug cases, the numbers skyrocket even further.

As Chief McNamara explains, these testifiers are otherwise "law-abiding and dedicated" cops, not bribe takers or excessive force users. They don't feel lying under oath is wrong because politicians tell them they are engaged in a "holy war" fighting evil. Then, too, the "enemy" these mostly white cops are testifying against are poor blacks and Latinos.

The Police Commissioner of New York, William F. Bratton — also an experienced big city cop — agrees that "testilying" is a "real problem that needs to be addressed." But he places the responsibility more at the feet of prosecutors than politicians:

"When a prosecutor is really determined to win, the trial prep procedure may skirt along the edge of coercing or leading the police witness. In this way, some impressionable young cops learn to tailor their testimony to the requirements of the law."

At a conference sponsored by the Criminal Justice Institute of Harvard, Commissioner Bratton — who went to New York City after heading the Boston Police Department — said that police and prosecutors cannot address the problem of testilying "by ignoring it."

Wherever the blame lies, the problem is a real one and everyone in the criminal justice system knows it, though few are courageous enough to admit it. As McNamara puts it: "The federal government reports that more than 1.3 million drug arrests were made in 1994, 480,000 of which involved marijuana.... Many of the arrests for selling are made without search warrants and almost all the possession arrests are without warrants. In other words, hundreds of thousands of police officers swear under oath that the drugs were in plain view or that the defendant gave consent to a search."

"This may happen occasionally but it defies belief that so many drug users are careless enough to leave illegal drugs where the police can see them or so dumb as to give cops consent to search them when they possess drugs. But without this kind of police testimony, the evidence would be excluded under a 1961 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Mapp vs. Ohio*."

McNamara, who cares deeply about the integrity of the police, believes that this widespread testilying has contributed to the atmosphere which creates police scandals such as those recently exposed in New York, Boston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Denver and other large cities. As the district attorney of Queens, N.Y., put it:

"What's important to recognize is the fact that when police officers are perceived to lie, that perception gets into the jury room. You've got to impress upon police officers that they are going to lose cases if the perception exists that they are bending the truth."

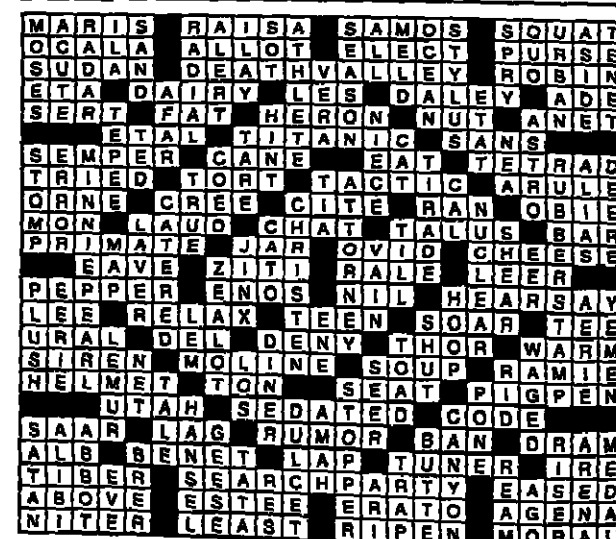
Perhaps, after decades of burying their collective heads in the sand, prosecutors, politicians and judges may finally be prepared to do something about this cancer in law enforcement. Unconcerned with the civil liberties implications of this dangerous phenomenon, these officials have received a wake-up call from the spate of acquittals that have resulted from the diminished trust juries seem to have, not only in police testimony, but in prosecutors and judges as well.

In Boston this week, a new scandal was brewing. A group of detectives is being investigated for possible corruption in nearly 12,000 cases. From the 11,800 case files and warrants in which they were involved, only 12 convictions resulted. This has led investigators to suspect that most of the arrests and searches they conducted were illegitimate. What is interesting about this scandal, as contrasted with earlier ones, is that the concern here is not so much that these bad cops were hurting the civil liberties of innocent suspects, but rather that they were hurting law enforcement by allowing possibly guilty defendants to go free.

New York City Police Commissioner Bratton has now introduced a program for training police officers to give accurate testimony in court. This will help. But the primary responsibility lies with the prosecutors who put lying cops on the witness stand and with the judges who pretend to believe them. If the guardians of our liberty get tough with cops who fib, we will see the end of testilying. All Americans will benefit from more honesty in our courts.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest book is "Reasonable Doubts" (Simon & Schuster).

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The birth pangs of Hashomer Hatza'ir

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

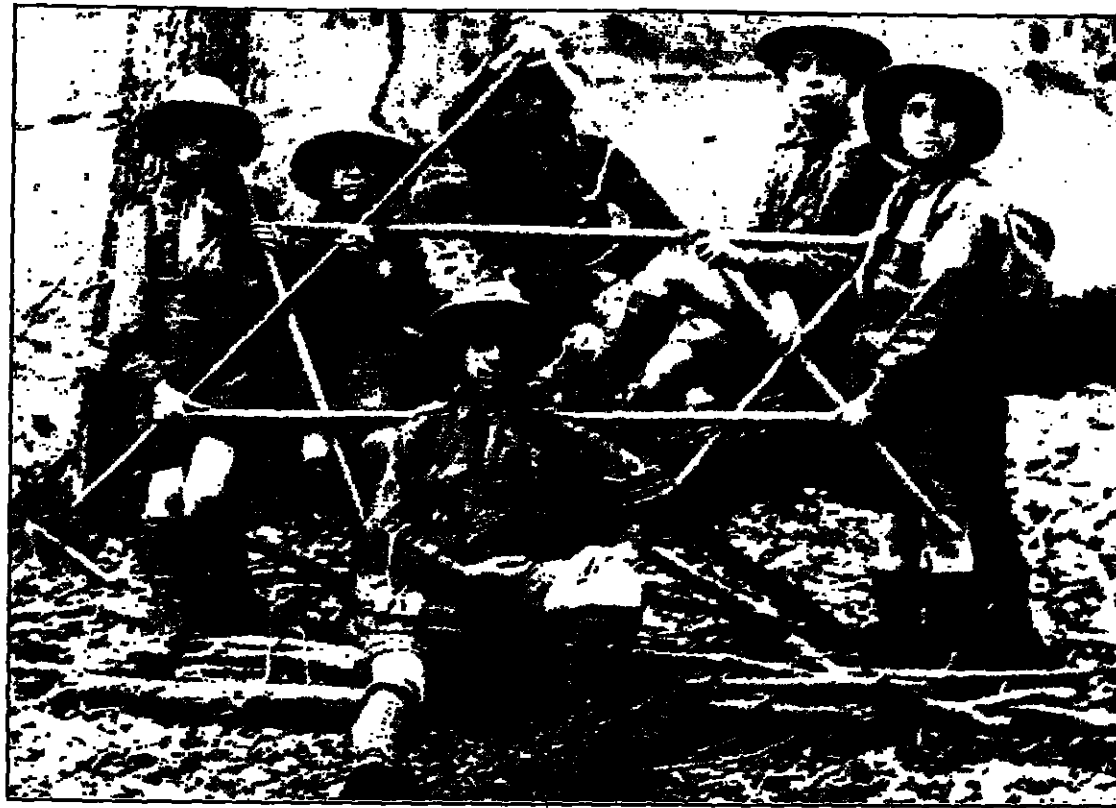
MARX, Freud and nationalistic aspirations beset the imagination of young Jews in eastern Europe at the turn of the century. That was the setting for the emergence of a youth movement that was destined to play a distinctive role in Zionist history: Hashomer Hatza'ir.

The young men who conceived the movement had no political aims. They wanted only to reeducate their generation, to give the Jewish youth the stature and pride of, say, the German Wandervogel nature movement. Many would probably have been interested in joining that fraternity. But the Germans and Austrians didn't want Jews for comrades.

Matityahu Mintz, professor emeritus of Tel Aviv University, traces the origins of Hashomer Hatza'ir in the 430-page volume *Hevlei Ne'urim* ("Pangs of Youth"), published recently by the World Zionist Organization. He dwells mainly on events that occurred in German-speaking Europe before World War I, and in the former Austrian-controlled part of Poland immediately after the war.

A number of local Jewish youth associations emerged, of which Tze'irei Zion and Hashomer gained prominence. Eventually, they merged, amid endless discussions on what their aims should be.

Some 200 followers, who met toward the end of 1919, still



Above, children at a summer camp of Hashomer Hatza'ir in Slonim, Poland, in 1923; Meir Ya'ari (right), the 'Grand Old Man' of the movement to rebuild the Jewish nation in Israel.

(Beth Haezra/Star Photo)

under the impact of bloody war, asserted that they should not seek to form a political party, or even seek political support. They were more interested in learning Hebrew and acquiring a practical trade.

David Horowitz, who later became the first governor of the Bank of Israel, wrote in 1920 that the movement aimed at "living a full life, full of tension and

romanticism," a "free and liberated life." The world, he wrote, must be made "a function of man," and man must not be "an instrument of mechanical forces."

Even more convoluted thinking came from a Galicia-born youth whose family moved to Vienna during the war. According to Meir Wald - later known as Meir Ya'ari, the Grand Old Man of

Hashomer Hatza'ir and Mapam - the natural, "spontaneous" nature of the Jews would come to fruition only on their return to the physical environment in which they had originated - in the east, on the desert's edge. Only the trinity of spirit, nation and country would lead to "personal erotic salvation."

Ya'ari pursued his ideals of creating a "pioneering fraternity" to



ship in Lvov in 1919.

IN JULY 1920 some 100 members came to Palestine in two groups with only a vague idea on how to proceed. Their inclination was to try to preserve their togetherness in a kibbutz somewhere on the shores of Lake Kinneret. They depended for work on the Hapoel Hatza'ir labor exchange. But it had nothing to offer.

One group suffered from virtual starvation and, having no strength to work, dispersed to other places.

Things were only slightly better in Beit Gan, near Yavne'el. The group based there moved to Beitunya, in the same area. Here at least they could discuss their situation, argue about what had gone wrong, and whether or not there was hope for the future. Meir Ya'ari made a big impact on the group, Horowitz recalled later. But Horowitz himself was unsure whether Ya'ari's vision was realistic or just an illusion.

Toward the end of 1921 the Hashomer Hatza'ir presence in Palestine dwindled considerably. Many members returned to Poland. Ya'ari spoke of the need for a "new covenant."

He brandished the idea of establishing a great number of tiny settlements. And he called for the establishment of an organized party - a move he had opposed in the past.

In practice, the politicization of Hashomer Hatza'ir took some time. By 1921 the Soviet experience had become a guiding spirit for what began purely as an exercise in self-education.

Hell on earth for the promise of paradise

ASK relatives and neighbors what made Sufian Sheih blow himself up last August on a Jerusalem bus, and they answer with shrugs and dismissive shakes of their heads.

"As Jews have extremists, we have extremists," said Hamad Jabari, 33, a neighbor. "We don't know anything. We don't know what was in his mind."

Out of earshot of their elders, young boys from the neighborhood are more interested in talking about Sheih - and their admiration for his act, which killed four people besides himself and wounded more than 100.

"Of course, he's our hero," said Ahmad, a tall 14-year-old in white trousers and a blue jacket. "We are so proud of him."

Does he want to follow in his hero's footsteps? Ahmad hesitated. "I don't know," he said finally.

The success of militant groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad in persuading young men to sacrifice their lives to kill Jews is Israel's biggest security threat. As long as such human ammunition is available, deadly attacks require only sneaking a single person strapped with explosives across the border.

MANY IN Israel are skeptical that the get-tough measures will succeed as long as potential bombers, enticed by promises of heavenly rewards and earthly renown, are willing to die for their cause.

Since the signing of the initial Israel-PLO peace agreement in October 1993, more than 100 people have been killed in suicide bombings. Ami Ayalon, head of the GSS internal

security agency, warned this week that there are hundreds more Palestinians willing to become suicide bombers.

Suicide bombers are born from frustration and despair, psychologists and political analysts say. Like Sufian, they are almost always unmarried men in their 20s with no job and few prospects.

The clear-cut, uncompromising ideology of militant Islam and the rewards of martyrdom are a strong draw for these young men.

They are promised a heavenly paradise with 72 virgins, posthumous adulation in their communities and financial benefits for their families - everything they lacked in life.

"It's the culmination of utter frustration with their lives," said Manuel Hassassian, a political science professor at Bethlehem University.

"It's not a coincidence that all suicide bombers are very young and have no families," said Anat Kurtz, a terrorism expert at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv.

"Once a person gets to 30 and has several kids to take care of, he's not very likely to turn to religious ideas that would make him do something like that."

In addition to a political cause, a bomber has to have "very, very strong personal difficulties in dealing with himself and the world," Kurtz said.

"I don't think that political dedication is enough," she said. "We are all political persons and care about politics - but there's a long way to go between that and getting killed."

Some analysts claim the six-year intifada left a generation of young people with personal grudges against Israel.

The bomber who blew up a Tel Aviv bus in October 1994, killing 22 people, left a tape saying he was avenging the death of a 14-year-old brother killed in the intifada.

Raed Shagnoubi, who blew himself up on a Jerusalem bus on March 3, killing 18 people, had talked about becoming a suicide bomber after Israeli troops pumped seven bullets into the legs of his older brother, Mohammed, during a raid four years ago.

Mousa Ziadeh, now 15, was a would-be suicide bomber who told his story to reporters last year. He was arrested before he could carry out his attack.

He joined the Hamas youth movement in Gaza City in 1992, drawn by the camaraderie and promises of paradise. He became a youth leader in the El-Bureij refugee camp, persuading other boys to attend religious classes by offering them Hamas tapes and other trinkets.

"We also scared them by talking to them about hell," he said. "Once they were hooked, we would move to lessons in politics."

Ziadeh said he was approached about becoming a suicide bomber one night as he swept up the mosque after prayers.

"They told me since we're all mortal, it's better to die a martyr," he said.

"I thought of how I would become a hero like all the others who have martyred themselves. I told them I would do it." (AP)

Lending a helping hand to abandoned dogs

LAST week a neighbor took in one of the many dogs that get dumped here in our village by owners who no longer want them.

The dog in question is a truly beautiful collie, fawn and white, a spectacular young specimen about 18 months old. It has obviously been well fed, perhaps just a trace overfed from the weight he is carrying and he is friendly and very playful.

He is, however, very poorly groomed with tangles and snarls and the accompanying "hot spots" - a skin condition common to long-haired dogs that have not been groomed properly. Furthermore he refuses to allow anyone to now groom him, even snapping when one tries.

This dog is also completely untrained and has obviously never been put on a leash before. When put on a lead he tries every way possible to get free. He also cannot be persuaded - in any language or by any system - to sit, lie down or come when called.

He is not house trained but, interestingly, he has been taught to retrieve a stick or ball and to put it down in front of his human companion.

This he was no doubt taught because an untrained dog will refuse to relinquish the retrieved article.

Obviously if this dog is to be kept by my neighbor, then he must learn a few things right away and this is not going to be easy. Getting him to walk on a lead is the first step, and although I usually forgo their use it is probably going to be necessary to use a slip-chain or "choke" collar for the first lessons because no matter how hard he pulls against a regular collar he doesn't seem to feel it.

These collars are usually not needed when a pup is taught at the right age but here we have a full-grown dog, so there is little

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

choice. If I were the adopter in this case I might consider having the dog learn to walk on lead, and sit and lie down on command by a professional trainer, especially since the neighbor who took him in is rather frail.

Grooming is the next and also the most important step - here I would forgo a brush for the moment and use a grooming glove since it is not so alarming to a dog that isn't used to it.

If the dog likes to be stroked

and petted, and this one does, then he will probably not mind a glove being used. (These gloves are available at pet stores.) It is just possible, however, that no matter how patient you are, the dog will refuse to be brushed and in this case one just might have to muzzle him until he gets the idea and sees that this is a painless and even pleasant procedure.

But over and above these tips, the watchword is patience. This

dog, like most dogs, is intelligent enough to adapt to the situation as soon as he gets over his fear of new circumstances. It's going to take a lot more work to get there but he will almost certainly learn what is required of him if given time.

Some old truisms are entirely accurate but there is one that I have learned from experience to utterly reject: "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

You can if you stay with it because we've also been told that "you're never too old to learn" - haven't we?



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Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

For the last three years Neil Folberg, a former student of Ansel Adams, has travelled the world, visiting Jewish communities past and present and photographing both grand-scale and modest synagogues, in places ranging from India to the Czech Republic, to Israel, the American South and the Caribbean. An essay by Yom Tov Assis focuses on the social and cultural history of the Jews, and Neil Folberg's first-person account of his photographs accompanies each of the chapters, which are divided into geographic regions. A superb full color album, it provides a vibrant window onto the Jewish cultural past.

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Aging Pendleton braces for another season

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP) — Tired and sore and growing old, Terry Pendleton still likes to play every day.

Pendleton sat out only 11 of the Florida Marlins' 144 games last year. He played despite shoulder and elbow injuries that hampered him at the plate and in the field.

"I'm not one who likes to show up and watch," the veteran third baseman said. "I complain that I'm tired, but I've always said that. When I was 26 I said that."

Now, at 35, Pendleton hopes to coax his body through another long season. The Marlins are counting on his offense, defense and leadership as they try to become playoff contenders for the first time.

The genial Pendleton has long been regarded as a positive clubhouse influence who teaches and encourages younger players.

"He keeps everybody loose and keeps things fun," pitcher John Burkett said. "To me that's what a leader is — somebody that can have a good time, but when they go out on the field, he's all business."

But Pendleton helps the Marlins most of all when he plays.

The switch-hitter batted .290 last season, hitting his career average to .274, and hit 14 home runs with 78 RBIs and a club record 32 doubles. The injuries hampered Pendleton's throwing, but his glove work still strengthened an infield shaky up the middle.

"He's a very valuable individual off the field as far as leadership qualities," manager Rene Lacheman said. "But when you get a switch-hitting third baseman who can hit .280 to .300 and drive runs in, that's of more value."

The package producing such results is deceiving. At 5-foot-9 and 195 pounds, Pendleton appears soft and out of shape.

"He looks like an avocado vendor," Marlins coach Cookie Rojas joked.

But Pendleton has enjoyed a long and prosperous career. He was the National League most valuable player for Atlanta in 1991, played in the All-Star Game the following year and has been to four World Series.

Pendleton is in the second and final year of a contract that will pay him \$1.5 million this season. In July he turns 36, and the Marlins' oldest starter hedges on the subject of how much longer he'll play.

"A year at a time," he said. "This may be my last one."

Don't count on it. Pendleton still likes to play every day.

HEATHER CHART

THE World Windsurfing Championships which open in Haifa today mean D-day for Amit Inbar and Gal Friedman. Both have cleared the criterion for the Olympics but only one of them will represent Israel in Atlanta.

Inbar and Friedman are the focus of the world youth championships. Inbar is a loner, relying heavily on his brother and trainer, Eran, and preferring the company of foreign windsurfers to his Israeli colleagues. As part of his stringent training program, he chose to forego the International ASA Championships held last week in Eilat (where Friedman finished second), channeling all his energies into the Haifa tournament.

To beat Friedman, Inbar needs to lead him by one place only while Friedman has to surpass Inbar with two countries separating them.

Friedman, seen as a major force for the Sydney Games in 2000, has beaten Inbar in all the recent local competitions as well as being Israeli champion five times. The 20-year-old from Caesarea, who began windsurfing at the age of seven, has a list of titles to his name but lags behind Inbar on experience and the drive to win. This is his first shot at an Olympic spot but he was silver medalist in 1991 at the youth world championships and last year's runner-up at the world championships.

Friedman is brimming with enthusiasm for the world championships. "I have trained very intensively over the last few months and I am hungry for a medal spot at Haifa," he says.

Of the three, tournaments that decide which of the two will travel to Atlanta, 40 percent was allocated to the world championships in South Africa last December, where Inbar ended sixth and Friedman 10th; and 30 percent went to the European Championships where Friedman ended second and Inbar fourth.

Last November, the Elite Sport Unit decided to change the makeup of the point system, allocating the remaining 30% to the Haifa tournament, instead of distributing the points equally to two competitions during 1996.

For many of the 250 windsurfers from the 45 competing countries, the championships mark the final attempt for the Olympic ticket since this is the last major tournament before Atlanta.

Among the countries participating are Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Spain and the US.

Sharif Asfour, from Egypt, is the only entrant from an Arab state to have signed up so far and was due to arrive in Israel yesterday.

National team coach Gur Steinberg, himself a past world champion, is satisfied with his team's training. "We've worked hard in Haifa for two months and our preparations are done. Now everything depends on the last day's sails and on the weather," he said.

Steinberg anticipates the fiercest competition from world champion Aaron McIntosh and Bruce Kendal, both from New Zealand, while France has the strongest team. On the women's front, the French have the clear upholder.

Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna lauded the windsurfers for visiting Israel at this time, saying that his city would take maximum precautions to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the visitors.

The tournament, organized by the Haifa Municipality, the Yachting Association and the municipal sports authority, will be held at Bat Galim beach from today with the finals from March 20 to 23.

Windy city

Windsurfing Championships open today in Haifa



OFF TO THE RACES — The pressure's on Amit Inbar as he competes for a spot in the Olympics against fellow national Gal Friedman. (Sari Heini)

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Princeton stuns UCLA; UConn beats Colgate

NCAA: Thursday's, Friday's Games see Duke, Maryland fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Princeton showed UCLA the backdoor right out of the NCAA tournament.

After scaring opponents for years, the Tigers finally pulled off the big upset Thursday night with a 43-41 win over defending champion UCLA in the Southeast Regional at Indianapolis.

Running Pete Carril's patient spread offense to perfection, the Tigers sent the 11-time NCAA champions home in a daze.

"We just knocked off a giant," Carril said.

The Tigers had lost their four previous tournament games by a combined 15 points, falling to Georgetown by one point in 1989 and to Villanova by two points two years later.

With the score 41-41 Gabe Lewulis scored with 3.9 seconds left, faking Charles O'Bannon and taking a pass from Steve Goodrich for a backdoor layup, a Princeton staple.

UCLA, 11-time national champion, called a timeout but Toby Bailey shot an airball from the baseline at the buzzer. That gave Carril, who has announced his retirement, the most dramatic victory in his 29 years at Princeton.

The Tigers may have struck the biggest upset Thursday, but they weren't the only ones.

Drexel became the latest Philadelphia school to pull off a shocker, jolting fifth-seeded Memphis 75-63 in the first round of the West Regional.

The Dragons' win was still ringing through The Pit in Albuquerque, N.M., when Purdue nearly became the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16 seed, escaping with a 73-71 win over Western Carolina. No top seed has lost its first game since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

Western Carolina (17-13), making its first trip to the tournament, had two chances to tie or win in the final seconds but missed two shots.

Chad Austin led the Boilermakers (26-5) with 18 points and Brandon Brantley had 17.

Malik Rose had 21 points and 15 rebounds as Drexel (27-3) extended the nation's second longest winning streak to 15 games.

Drexel and its 4,073 students get little attention in Philadelphia, where Big Five members Villanova, Penn. Temple, La Salle and St. Joseph's dominate the headlines and recruiting.

The Dragons continued a trend of No. 12 seeds thriving in the opening round. In 1994, Tulsa ousted UCLA; in 1993, Santa Clara shocked Arizona.

Elsewhere in the tournament, top seeds Massachusetts, Kentucky, Connecticut advanced easily.

UMass beat Central Florida 92-70 in the East. Kentucky defeated San Jose State 110-72 in the Midwest and UConn downed Colgate 68-59 in the Southeast.

UMass (32-1) broke open a close game by forcing turnovers on Central Florida's first six possessions of the second half.

Carmelo Travieso led the Minutemen with 21 points. All-American Marcus Camby had 14 points and 17 rebounds despite sitting out seven minutes of the second half with a gashed forehead, the result of an elbow by Central Florida's Reid Kettler.

Another All-American, Ray Allen, scored 12 of his 24 points during a 15-0 first-half run that led UConn over Colgate.

The Huskies (31-2) led by 22 late before a surge by Colgate (15-15) made the final score respectable.

Adonal Foyle led the Red Raiders with 21 points and 14 rebounds.

The victory could prove costly. UConn lost key reserve Ricky Moore with a separated shoulder late in the first half, and he probably will miss the rest of the tournament.

Kentucky (29-2) led by only six points at halftime, but wore down San Jose State (13-17) with depth and pressure defense.

Stanford 66, Bradley 58

Brevin Knight scored 26 points and Stanford (20-3) overcame a 34-point performance by Anthony Parker. Parker tied a school record with eight 3-pointers, but scored only two baskets for Bradley (22-8) in the final seven minutes.

Arkansas 86, (18) Penn St. 8

The Razorbacks, NCAA champions in 1994 and second to UCLA in 1995, have their worst record in nine seasons but still had plenty to upset the Nittany Lions.

Arkansas (19-12) was led by Kareem Reid with 21 points and Darnell Robinson with 15. Calvin Booth led Penn State (21-7) with 20 points.

Marquette 68, Monmouth 44

The Golden Eagles were finally able to pull away in the second half against overmatched Monmouth, making its first NCAA appearance. Marquette (23-7) was led by Aaron Hutchins' 17 points.

SOUTHEASTERN

Michigan 75, Duke 60

Earl Boykins scored 20 points and Brian Tolbert added 20 as Eastern Michigan (25-5) handed Duke its first loss in the opening round since 1955.

Jeff Capel and Greg Newton each scored 15 points for the Blue Devils (18-13).

Miss St. 58, Va. Commw 51

Darryl Wilson scored 15 points as the Bulldogs survived a miserable shooting slump. Mississippi State (23-7) was saved by its defense, which forced the Rams (24-9) to shoot 31 percent.

MIDWEST

Va Tech 61, Wisc-Green Bay 48

Shawn Good made five 3-pointers and scored a career-high 25 points for Virginia Tech. Ace Custis added 15 points for the Hokies (23-5).

Iowa St. 74, California 64

Dedric Willoughby scored 23 points and the Cyclones (24-8) withstood foul trouble and a second-half rally by California (17-11). Cal's sensational freshman, Stanford's Abdul-Rahim, scored just seven points. The Pac-10's player of the year came in averaging nearly 22 points.

Utah 72, Canisius 43

The Utes were without star player Keith Van Horn, sick with the flu. Brandon Jessie scored 23 points in his absence on 9-of-12 shooting as Utah (26-6) advanced to meet Iowa State. Van Horn may not play Saturday.

Georgia Tech 90, Austin Peay 79

Syracuse 88, Montana St. 55

John Wallace scored 18 points and Todd Burgan had 17 as Syracuse routed Montana State despite a great performance by center Quadre Lolis. Lolis, the national leader in field goal percentage, hit 12 of 13 shots and finished with 26 points.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

WEST

Santa Clara 91, Maryland 79

The Atlantic Coast Conference, the winningest conference in tournament history, fell to 0-3 this year when Maryland lost on Friday.

Nash had 28 points and 12 assists for Santa Clara, which used a 14-0 run midway through the second half to hand Maryland its first opening-round loss in 13 NCAA appearances.

In addition to his scoring and passing, Nash foiled Maryland's press with his brilliant dribbling.

"Once you break that first trap, it's open sailing," said Nash, who made 17 straight free throws after missing his first.

Iowa 81, GWU 79

Iowa finally gave the Big Ten something to be proud of in the NCAA tournament, and the Big East showed why it was college basketball's best conference this season.

The Hawkeyes, trailing George Washington by 17 points late in the second half, rallied for an 81-79 victory. Iowa coach Tom Davis is now 9-0 in first-round games.

Kansas 92, S Carolina State 54

Jerod Hase scored 17 points for Kansas (27-4), which dominated the smaller Bulldogs (22-8) inside and outside. South Carolina State shot only 28 percent against Kansas, which was coming off a loss to Iowa State in the Big Eight tournament.

Arizona 90, Valparaiso 51

Georgia 81, Clemson 74

EAST

Georgetown 93, Miss. Valley St. 56

Allen Iverson scored 31 points and Georgetown (27-7) held the Delta Devils to 24 percent shooting in the first half. Iverson was 13-of-18 from the field, including three straight baskets during a 22-3 run that broke it open before halftime.

New Mexico 69, Kansas St. 48

Clayton Shields scored 25 points as New Mexico (28-4) won its first NCAA Tournament game since 1974. Kansas State (17-12) shot only 29 percent.

Boston College 64, Indiana 51

Indiana and Bobby Knight were bounced from the field in the first round for the second straight year. Danya Abrams scored 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, including two crucial offensive boards that killed any chance for an Indiana rally.

Andree Panason led the Hoosiers (19-12) with 12 points and 13 rebounds. Brian Evans, the Big Ten player of the year, was held to a season-low seven points.

MIDWEST

Louisville 82, Tulsa 80 (OT)

Villanova 92, Portland 58

Kerry Kittles scored 19 points as Villanova spoiled Portland's first NCAA tournament appearance in 37 years. The Wildcats (26-6) were upset by Old Dominion in the first round last year.

Michigan 80, Texas 76

Wake Forest 62, NE Louisiana 50

Wake Forest survived 14 minutes without All-American center Tim Duncan, slowed by a stomach virus. Rusty LaRue, playing point guard in place of injured Tony Rutland, scored 18 points and Ricky Peral added 14 for the second-seeded Demon Deacons (24-5).

Duncan had 10 points and 13 rebounds in 26 minutes.

Teams looking to settle old scores in World Cup final

LAHORE, Pakistan (Reuters) — Diplomatic noises will be made, soothing words expressed, but if World Cup officials are relying on a harmonious final between Australia and Sri Lanka today they must have spent the last three months on Mars.

The Gaddafi stadium will be unable to provide a crowd atmosphere comparable to Bangalore or Calcutta over the past week and the absence of co-hosts India and Pakistan deprives the occasion of spectacular off-field fireworks.

Yet as far as the two sets of players go, the best advice for unwary spectators is to stand well back behind the boundary rope. This is a final to settle old scores.

So much was said and written in the wake of Australia's refusal to travel to Colombo for their opening World Cup match on February 17 that only those with very short memories will be able to treat the final as just another game of cricket.

The guerrilla bomb attack which killed more than 80 people and injured 1,200 in the Sri Lankan capital on January 31 provoked widespread security fears, but while West Indies' decision to forfeit their group match on the island was relatively ignored, Australia found itself embroiled in a bitter war of words.

Much of it dated back to Sri Lanka's tour of Australia before and after Christmas which proved acrimonious even by modern standards. The touring side was accused of ball-tampering in the first Test in Perth and off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was persistently no-balled for throwing in the second Test in Melbourne by home umpire Darrell Hair.

Relations between the players became increasingly strained, overshadowing some excellent cricket from both sides, and nothing that has occurred since has helped heal the various personal rifts.

Now it is payback time after Australia's dramatic five-run



FEELING MEAN — To Mark Taylor and squad, this final is personal. (Reuters)

semifinal win over West Indies. Sri Lanka, almost oblivious to the fact it has reached its first World Cup final, is itching to seize its opportunity.

"Nothing could be more satisfying for us than to win the Cup by beating Australia in the final," admitted Sri Lankan manager Duleep Mendis. "It's not only me, the whole team has been eyeing this game since before the semifinals."

Some of the banners at the friendly match between Sri Lanka and a joint India-Pakistan side on the eve of the tournament suggest Sri Lankans feel the same way.

"Kangaroos have hearts of chicken" and "Aussie PM is Keating. Australians are cheating" were among the messages on display.

But Mark Taylor's team hopes to bury old grievances. There has been a clear determination among

the senior Australian players since the start of the tournament to emulate their 1987 predecessors who triumphed in Calcutta over their more traditional rival England.

If Sri Lanka does win, Taylor's words early in the tournament will have proved prophetic. "All of a sudden people are starting to talk about Sri Lanka winning the World Cup," he said in Visakhapatnam last month. "That was unheard of eight years ago. They were the ones you walked up to and got your two points against."

Possible teams:

Australia — Mark Taylor (captain), Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh, Stuart Law, Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Damien Fleming, Glenn McGrath.

Sri Lanka — Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Hasham Thilakaratne, Roshan Mahanama, Kumar Dharmasena, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vans, Prasanna Wickramaratne.

Nelson on firing: It's my fault

'I was the wrong guy for the job'

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Nelson accepted all the blame for his firing, calling himself an old-school coach who made a mistake trying to change an "inflexible" New York Knicks team.

"It's nobody's fault other than my own," he said in his first public comments since his dismissal. "When I look back at everything, it may be as simple as I was the wrong guy for the job. I don't disagree with that."

"I also agree 100 percent with their decision to make the move early if they were not going to keep me next year. The team has a chance to regroup, get its energy back, get its passion back."

Nelson, speaking at a news conference at a Manhattan restaurant, said he will take a few months to "as the players say, chill out." He hasn't decided whether to retire, but if he does return, he admits he'll have to adapt to today's NBA players.

"Evidently I don't deal as well as I should with the modern-day player," said Nelson, 55. "I'm from the old school. Today's players worry about statistics, but the only statistic that matters is winning, and I wish I could convince the modern-day ballplayer of that."

Nelson, who was fired last season by the Golden State Warriors after feuding with his players, lasted just 59 games with the Knicks, the shortest stint of any coach in the club's history. He was replaced by Jeff Van Gundy.

"I always told my players that when things go wrong, the first place to look is in the mirror. That's the first place I looked when I was released from my job."

"I have to decide why I've been fired twice now in two years and what I'm doing wrong. What changes do I need to make as a coach and a person to get modern-day players to work hard and play consistently for me? That's exactly what I'm trying to decide now in my own mind."

Candid and contrite as he spoke for about 30 minutes, Nelson said he was in favor of trading guard John Starks to San Antonio for Vinny Del Negro — "it was a no-brainer" — and felt Patrick Ewing "needs to be the second-best player on the team. I don't think he can physically carry the team anymore."

Responding to criticism of his short practices, he explained that he thought an older team like the Knicks needed more rest than practice.

"I played for many, many years, and I don't know many veterans who want three-hour practices or could physically do them and play a lot of minutes in the pros," he said. "But (the Knicks) weren't used to that and there was some criticism on that."

"It's ironic that in the Golden State area I was accused of being too tough and the practices being too hard, and here they were too easy and I was too easy. Somewhere in between, I suppose, was the right way."

Nelson preferred a fastbreaking, wide-open style of play, but the Knicks were unhappy with it.

"I've always been a very flexible coach," he said. "I like to do some unconventional things and they've been very successful over the years. That was the wrong approach with this team. This was an inflexible team, very traditional team that was set in its ways."

"I've never been around players who didn't want to run and score. This was a first for me. They've been successful with a half-court, slowdown game. When I suggested otherwise, they resisted it."

Nelson said he wasn't unhappy about being fired.

"The last few days have been very difficult for me," he said. "I'm not that bad of a person. I did the best job I could and I did it in a way that I thought was the right way. I've learned a lot. I hope I'll be a better person because of it."

مكتبات التحصيل

2 killed when light plane crashes into barn

DAVID RUDGE

TWO people were killed yesterday morning when their ultra-light plane crashed into a cowshed in Moshav Beit Lehem Haglilit and burst into flames.

Itai Etgar, 38, and his nephew Nati Yoram, 15, both from the moshav, in the Jezreel Valley, were killed instantly in the crash. There were no other casualties.

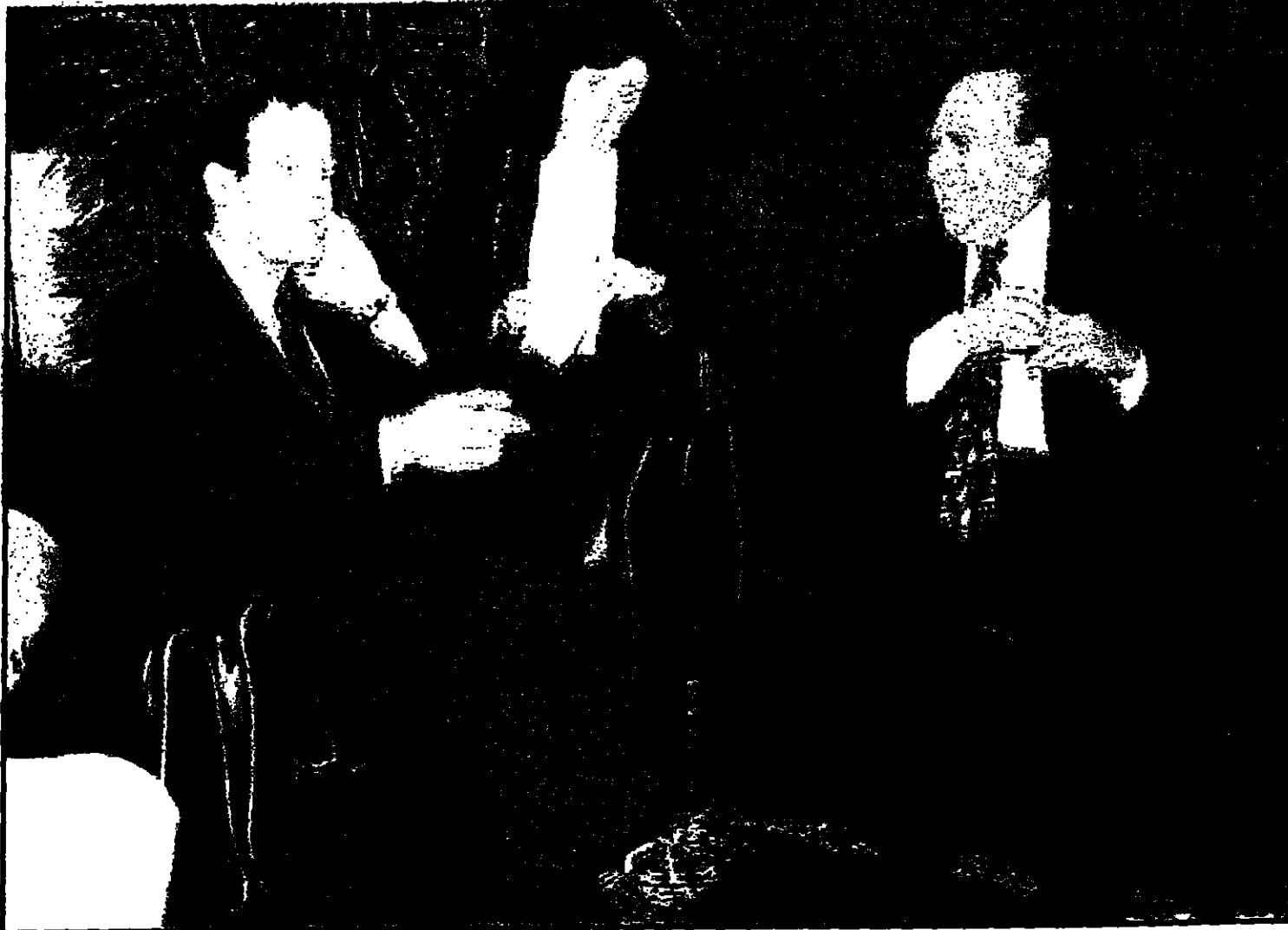
Etgar was one of the country's veteran ultra-light pilots.

The two took off from a landing strip on the moshav and made a short flight. When they returned,

however, a patch of fog had suddenly covered the area.

According to police, the plane hit a tree while trying to return to the landing strip and part of the aircraft fell off. The rest of the plane, with the two aboard, crashed into a cowshed on the moshav and burst into flames. Officials from the civil aviation authority went to the scene to investigate.

Police said the fog was probably the cause of the accident since the plane was new.



Jewish Agency head Avraham Burg (left) talks with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti in Montevideo on Friday. Burg is visiting Jewish communities in South America. (Reuters)

Eban among Israelis who boycotted Jerusalem symposium

PARIS (Reuters) A symposium on Jerusalem's future opened on Friday without mainstream Israeli representatives after Israel branded it a bid to pre-judge the city's fate before negotiations on the final status of Palestinian territories.

Only a handful of Israelis, mostly from tiny ultra-leftist groups including a man once jailed for giving logistical support to Palestinian terrorist groups, attended the opening at UNESCO headquarters.

An initial guest list included such Israeli personalities as former foreign minister Abba Eban and Labor party international affairs head Israel Gati but they stayed away in protest over the alleged bias.

Several Palestinians living in the West Bank or Gaza Strip were unable to attend the opening session at the UN cultural body's Paris offices because they could not enter Israel in order to reach an airport because of the closure.

The Palestinian position was presented by Salim Tamari, head of Jerusalem's Institute for Palestinian Studies and a negotiator in past Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, who said interim measures should be adopted to protect Palestinian rights.

Tamari said talks on Jerusalem's permanent status, to open after May 4, could take years during which Israel would consolidate its hold on the city.

"In the meantime, we should

think hard about arrangements that would give the Palestinians as much access to Jerusalem as the Israelis have...getting to schools, hospitals and places we are often cut off from, as well as residency rights like the Israelis have," Tamari said.

One Israeli view was presented by author-journalist Boaz Evron, a Peace Now sympathizer, who said he nearly canceled his participation because of the bombings. Evron said he wrongly believed at one point that his son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren had been victims of a Jerusalem bombing.

"It was the worst hours of my life...I thought: 'Why am I going to Paris to talk peace when we are being killed here?'" he said.

But he said the peace process "must continue and the most important point is that (Prime Minister) Shimon Peres must stay in power. If the bombings continue and (the right-wing opposition) Likud party wins Israel's elections, peace is dead."

Israel complained to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization this week, saying it had allowed itself to be manipulated into holding the symposium.

"The conference is basically being organized by the Palestinians who want to go back to the old days when UNESCO was their political tool," an Israeli diplomat said on Friday.

Bubis to appeal to UNESCO over plans for Auschwitz store

WARSAW (AP) - Jewish leaders said Friday they will seek UNESCO's help to stop construction of a shopping mall across the street from Auschwitz.

"We will inform UNESCO... and demand that the construction is stopped," said Ignatz Bubis, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

Bubis was speaking by telephone from Frankfurt, after attending a meeting of the European Jewish Congress in Paris.

On Thursday, the congress discussed plans by a Polish entrepreneur and a German financier to turn decrepit warehouses opposite the camp into a mall with fast-food stands, clothing stores and a 200-car parking lot.

The mall, to open in June, would lie within the 480-meter protection zone established by

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) around the former camp to protect its character and mood.

Polish developers defend the plan, saying the shopping center will serve museum visitors and improve appearance of the now bleak and somber camp surroundings.

"We agree one has to make some order there," Bubis said.

"We would not object to a cafe, or a shop with souvenirs," he said. "But [we say] no to a supermarket."

Bubis said a supermarket does not become a sacred place where some 1.2 million people, mostly Jews, were killed and cremated by the Nazis.

"We will also appeal once again to President

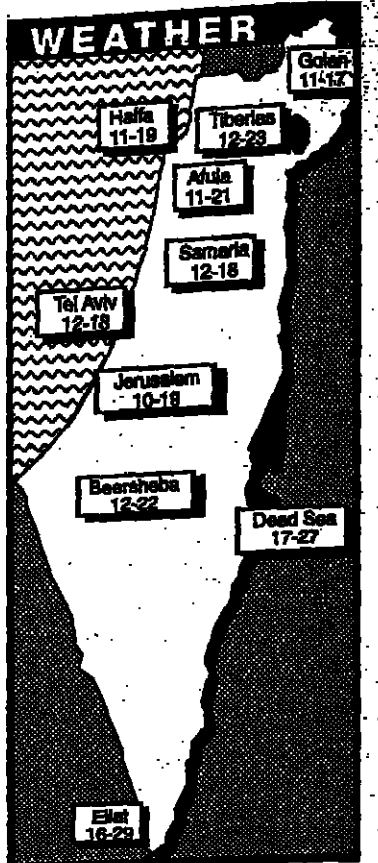
Aleksander Kwasniewski to stop the construction," he added.

Following protests from Jewish leaders, Kwasniewski earlier this week condemned the project. Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz has asked the mayor of Oswiecim to withdraw his authorization.

It is unclear, however, how much influence the federal government could have over the decision issued by local authorities in Oswiecim, where the camp is located.

A special commission set up by the minister of culture, who also objected to the project, investigated the situation in Auschwitz on Thursday and is going to present a report next week.

No member of the commission was available for comment Friday.



Forecast: Partly cloudy, cooler.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	SEA
Amsterdam	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Buenos Aires	15-20	20-25	10-15	moderate
Calcutta	25-30	30-35	10-15	moderate
Cairo	15-20	20-25	10-15	moderate
Chengdu	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Frankfurt	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Geneva	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Hong Kong	25-30	30-35	10-15	moderate
London	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Los Angeles	15-20	20-25	10-15	moderate
Moscow	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
New York	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Paris	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Rome	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate
Stockholm	10-15	15-20	10-15	moderate

Sarid intervenes in row over wolf packs on Golan

DAVID RUDGE

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid imposed a ban yesterday on the issuing of any permits to shoot wolves on the Golan Heights, despite the fact that they have been causing extensive damage to sheep and cattle.

Sarid interceded after the Nature Reserves Authority (NRA) permitted licensed hunters and NRA wardens to shoot wolves caught preying on livestock.

One wolf seen attacking sheep and calves on the Golan was shot and killed before Sarid imposed the ban yesterday. This followed intense pressure from cattle and sheep breeders who charged that packs of hunting wolves had been killing scores of sheep and calves, causing hundreds of thousands of shekels' worth of damage.

The breeders also maintained that the population of the wolves a protected species had risen to about 100, and there were fears they might endanger children in farming communities.

Both claims were categorically denied by the NRA and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI). They said they were only a few dozen wolves and that there was not the remotest chance they would harm humans.

The SPNI and the NRA have accused some cattle and sheep breeders of poisoning carcasses of animals to kill wolves, despite the fact they are protected. SPNI spokeswoman Orit Nevo stressed, however, that this endangered other carnivores and birds of prey, including griffin vultures, and could cause an "environmental disaster."

The SPNI and the NRA have demanded speedy action by the police to apprehend the perpetrators and stiff punishments for offenders. Nevertheless, the NRA decided to issue permits to licensed hunters and its own wardens to shoot wolves seen preying on sheep and cattle.

NY to celebrate Jerusalem 3000

NEW YORK (AP) - Jerusalem 3000 celebrations will be held at a celebration in Manhattan, within sight of the Statue of Liberty and next to the future Holocaust Museum.

The outdoor gathering on May 7 at an open space in Battery Park City will feature speakers, music, art exhibits and kosher food. Talk-show host Larry King of CNN will serve as master of ceremonies.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will fly in for the party, which is being dedicated to the late prime

minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Now, more than ever, we must strengthen our support of one of America's greatest allies, Israel," New York Governor George Pataki said. "We must show our unity and reaffirm our commitment to seeing that Israel prosper in peace and security. This event will do just that."

About 3,000 people will be invited. The hosts are New York state, Israeli Consul General Colette Avital and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

MDA friends association to be set up here

JUDY SIEGEL

A MAGEN David Adom friends' association was established here in last week by businesspeople and professionals to support the organization in addition to the existing 16 associations around the world.

The voluntary group said it aimed at helping the first-aid and blood-supply organization to resolve its serious financial problems by organizing fund-raising efforts in Israel on a broad basis.

Among the founders are MDA president David Barzilai, journalist Dan Hamitzer, Nazareth businessman Bediye Tanus, Elron managing director Uzi Galil, insurance executive Ariela Shmida-Doron, accountant Iris Shtrak and lawyer Ami Osnat.

At the founding meeting at MDA's national blood center at Tel Hashomer, Shmida-Doron was elected chairman.

The founders expressed their appreciation for MDA workers and volunteers who deal with the victims of recent terror attacks.

Report: Leah Rabin to receive \$2.5 million for memoirs

The daily *Globe* said that the American publishing company raised the sum in discussions with Leah Rabin, who has announced she plans to write a book about her life with the late premier.

Rabin could not be immediately reached for comment, and in the past has refused to comment on any pending book deals.

Rabin's 18-year-old granddaughter, Noa Ben-Artzi, has reportedly received an advance of nearly \$1 million for a 200-page book due out in April. (AP)

Canadian Jews concerned about ruling on refugees

MONTREAL (AP) - Refugee advocates and Jewish leaders fear that Jews fleeing persecution abroad could be denied refugee protection in Canada because of a recent Federal Court ruling.

The court has backed the Immigration and Refugee Board's denial of refugee status to Antonina Grygorian, 66, who testified she fled antisemitic persecution in Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic.

Board members Jack Davis and William Avery rejected her claim partly on the ground that as a Jew, she could always apply for citizenship in Israel under the Law of Return.

The board's position, issued in Toronto, was upheld November 23 by Federal Court Justice Marcel

Joyal.

The refugee advocates and Jewish leaders say Canada shouldn't shut its doors to Jews who have no links with Israel, merely on the basis that in theory, they could become citizens there.

The ruling is unacceptable, said Jack Silverstone, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

"It amounts to a discriminatory provision against persons of Jewish origin," he said Thursday.

Montreal lawyer Mitchell Goldberg said some officers at the Refugee Board are using the precedent to try to slam the door on Jewish refugee claims. He said it's been cited against Jews who have fled persecution in Georgia, Kazakhstan and Russia.

New director named for Acre theater festival

ACTOR/director/playwright Itzik Weingarten will be artistic director of the 1996 Acre Festival for Alternative Theater. He replaces Acre Theater Center Director Dudi Ma'ayan who presided over a lackluster festival last year. The appointment is for one year only. Helen Kaye

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